



Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 18 March 2024 at The Hetton Centre, Hetton-le-Hole, County Durham, DH5 9NE

Present

Cllrs K Angus, J Bonsall, D Brennan, J Defty, R Elvin, D Geddis (Town Mayor),
L Gibson, P Hall, S Holt, W Little, R Meadows, H Morton, K Pearson, 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 Dowell (away),
Cllr J Green (unwell) and Cllr M Pigdon (family commitment).

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 February 2024.
- b) Town Council **resolved** to approve the draft minutes and recommendations of
the meeting of Events & Special Activities Committee held on 12 March 2024.

4) Public participation

The issues outlined below were raised by Members of the public in attendance.

Pot hole outside Price Wise, Front Street, Hetton had been repaired but quality of
work was regarded as being of a poor standard
Further deterioration of the fabric of former Crown public house in Hetton.

Lack of parking enforcement in Hetton centre and especially in the vicinity of Hetton
Community Pool.

Query re Hetton Town Council plans to mark VE Day 80.

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Kerb leading to Vic pub is broken and requires repair.
Road surface from Hetton to Houghton near former Comrades Club requires attention.
Town Council **resolved** that TC refer these matters to the relevant agencies for attention.

5) Reports from Members

Cllr R Meadows:
Grass surface in Hetton Cemetery is being damaged by vehicles.

Cllr K Pearson:
Easington Lane War Memorial Clock has stopped working (all faces affected).

Cllr L Gibson:
Requests a copy of SCC Highway improvements schedule for the Hetton and Copt Hill wards.
Requests that road signs warning of deer are installed on North Road, Hetton.

Cllr S Waterston:
Seeks reasons for the removal of speed humps from Mill Terrace, Hetton, together with details of the costs for the works.

Cllr D Geddis:
Reported problematic behaviour perpetrated by an alleged drug dealer impacting on elderly residents of bungalows at High Street, Easington Lane.

Queries SCC position re adoption of Taylor Wimpey and Persimmon housing developments at Easington Lane.

Town Council **resolved** that TC refer these matters to the relevant agencies for attention.

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:

Barclays Business Premium Account interest	£107.34
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Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (includes add. hrs for Feb 24; mileage claim)	£1562.42
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£579.90
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £105.38

Sub-total: £2247.70

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Signed:

Date:

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Other expenditure:

Society of Local Council Clerks (annual subscription)	£188.00
Konica Minolta (copy & print charge 10/11/23 - 09/02/24)	£27.00
BT (monthly broadband charge)	DD £38.72
Hetton Town Trust (Room hire for 19 Feb meeting)	£56.25
EE (mobile phone - 4 March 24)	DD £10.50
Aldi (Easter eggs x 300 @ £1.25/unit)	DC £375.00
Amazon UK (Green Store - laptop sleeve and delivery)	DC £20.98
Sub-total:	£716.45

Total: £2964.15

Barclays Current account balance @ 14 March 24:	£90,078.75
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£87,114.60

Barclays Reserve account:	
Balance @ 14 March 24:	£28,810.27

Town Mayor Fund

Income:	Nil
Expenditure:	Nil
Account balance @ 14 March 24	£1690.00

8) Town Clerk update

TC highlighted that there remained 5 x Members who were not using their allocated gov.uk email address and requested that they contact him to discuss any issues they may be experiencing in accessing these.

TC reported that 20 March was County Durham Day and invited Members to attend the flag unfurling at 1.00pm.

TC reported that the Town Council's nomination for VCS representative to the Coalfield Area Committee had been deemed not eligible by SCC.

Following a request to Gentoo for their CX to attend a meeting of the Town Council, TC reported that he had received a positive response. However, Gentoo had requested details of the topics to be covered. TC asked Members to notify him.

Further to concerns expressed about unsafe working practices at former Manor House Care Home, TC reported that he had contacted the Health & Safety Executive, but they had been unable to investigate as they had been unable to identify company details.

TC informed Members of plans to hold an event to mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of Hetton Town Council in 1974. This would be held on 26 April and would dovetail with the Town Mayor's annual charity event.

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

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Signed:

Date:

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9) War Memorial - Hetton Mini Park

TC reported that the formal request to SCC to take ownership of the site had been acknowledged, and a further response was awaited.

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

10) Red Gables, East Rainton

TC referred to the most recent updates previously circulated.

Town Council **resolved** to note the position and request that TC seek confirmation from SCC of the deadline for the submission of comments relating to the planning application.

11) Local Government Boundary Commission for England

TC referred to the previously circulated information received from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England relating to proposals for electoral warding arrangements for Sunderland. This provided the Town Council with a further opportunity to make a submission by 22 April 24.

Town Council **resolved** that TC convene a meeting of the previously established working group to further consider proposed boundaries for the Town Council area.

12) Voluntary Sector Alliance

Cllr K Angus provided a verbal update following her attendance at the Coalfield VCS Network meeting held on 5 March.

Town Council **resolved** to note the position and request that TC circulate the Business Improvement Centre presentation and meeting notes.

13) Great British Spring Clean

Town Council **resolved** to undertake a litter pick on Thursday 28 March at 2.00pm in Hetton Park to which all Members were invited to participate.

14) Planning matters

TC reported that the application detailed below had been received from Sunderland City Council.

24/00374/FUL

132 Lambton Drive Hetton-le-Hole Houghton-le-Spring DH5 0ER

Proposal:

Erection of a two-storey side extension and single storey extension to front and rear.

Applicant: Mr Jordan Garside

Town Council **resolved** no comments or objections.

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15) General correspondence

Town Council **resolved** to receive the correspondence outlined below and take action as indicated.

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Updates - 22 Feb, 8 March and 15 March 24 **Noted**

HR training courses – **circulate to Chair, S&E&T Cmtee**

Council publicity in run up to Mayoral and PCC elections **Noted**

Sunderland City Council:

Notes from Coalfield VCS Network held 5 February 24 - circulated 18 03 24 **Noted**

VCS nomination to Coalfield Area Cmtee **Noted**

National Association of Civic Officers:

March 24 newsletter - circulated to TM and DTM **Noted**

Easington Lane Community Access Point:

Provision of updated visuals and site plans - circulated 12 03 24 **Noted**

Worknest:

Offer of specialist advice services – **refer to Chair MP& F**

Durham Pride:

Invitation to launch event - circulated 14 03 24 **Noted**

MoP:

Appreciation of support from HTC for planning application - circulated 07 03 24 **Noted**

16) Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 15 April 2024 commencing 19.15 hrs.

Following discussion, Town Council **resolved** that ahead of the April meeting, a formal photograph of Members of the Town Council would be taken at 6.00pm on Monday 8 April 24.