



Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 20 May 2024 at The Hetton Centre, Welfare Road, Hetton le Hole, County Durham, DH5 9NE

Present

Cllrs K Angus, J Bonsall, D Brennan, J Defty, P Dowell, R Elvin, D Geddis, L Gibson, P Hall, S Holt, W Little, R Meadows, K Pearson, M Pigdon, K Rowham, D Thomas, C Willis and S Woods-Brass.

In attendance

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

1) Election of Town Mayor

Nominations were sought for the position of Town Mayor.

Cllr S Waterston was nominated by Cllr R Meadows, seconded by Cllr D Brennan.
Cllr R Elvin was nominated by Cllr S Holt, seconded by Cllr D Thomas.

A Member sought clarification relating to the validity of the nomination of Cllr Waterston as she was not present.

TC informed Town Council that he had previously sought advice and confirmed that the nomination was valid.

TC advised that the election would need to proceed to a ballot.

A proposal for a secret ballot was proposed by Cllr D Thomas, seconded by Cllr K Rowham.

A counter-proposal for a ballot by show-of-hands was proposed by Cllr D Geddis, seconded by Cllr R Meadows.

A ballot by show of hands was then conducted for the proposal to conduct a secret ballot for the election of Town Mayor.

This was defeated; and by default, the ballot to elect the Town Mayor was conducted by show-of-hands.

This resulted in a tie and following the Town Mayor's casting vote, Cllr S Waterston was elected Town Mayor for 2024-2025.

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2) Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Due to the absence of the newly elected Town Mayor, Town Council necessarily **resolved** to defer this item.

Town Clerk's note:

At the recommendation of the Town Clerk, at this point, Town Council **resolved** to amend the order of agenda items to give early consideration to Item 5 in the absence of the Town Mayor, and consider Item 9 as a priority.

The minutes document proceedings in the order of the published agenda.

3) Apologies for absence

TC reported that he had received apologies for absence from Cllr J Green (work commitment) and Cllr S Waterston (away).

Following separate votes by show of hands, Town Council **resolved** to approve the apologies for absence received from Cllrs Green and Waterston.

No apology for absence had been received from Cllr H Morton.

Town Council **resolved** that his absence be recorded as unapproved.

4) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5) Election of Deputy Town Mayor

Nominations were sought for the position of Deputy Town Mayor.

Cllr P Dowell was nominated by Cllr J Bonsall, seconded by Cllr K Pearson.

There were no other nominations.

Cllr P Dowell was elected Deputy Town Mayor for 2024-2025.

6) Election to Committees

Town Council **resolved** to approve nominations to Committees as outlined below.

Management, Policy & Finance Cmttee:

Cllrs J Bonsall, P Dowell, D Geddis, K Pearson, M Pigdon, D Thomas, S Waterston, S Woods-Brass.

Planning & Development Cmttee:

Cllrs K Angus, J Bonsall, D Geddis, L Gibson, S Holt, W Little, M Pigdon, S Waterston.

Staff, Employment & Training Cmttee:

Cllrs K Angus, D Brennan, P Dowell, S Holt, W Little, R Meadows, H Morton, S Woods-Brass.

Events & Special Activities Cmttee:

Cllrs K Angus, D Brennan, D Geddis, P Hall, R Meadows, S Waterston, C Willis, S Woods-Brass.

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7) Appointments to outside bodies

Town Council **resolved** to approve nominations to outside bodies as outlined below.

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Executive: Cllr D Geddis

Larger Councils Forum: Cllrs J Bonsall, D Geddis and S Waterston.

Hetton Town Trust (2 x trustees): Cllrs K Pearson and D Thomas.

Sunderland City Council Standards Committee: Cllrs D Geddis and S Waterston.

Sunderland City Council Coalfield Area Committee: Cllr W Little.

Eppleton Quarry Liaison Committee: Cllr P Dowell.

Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance: Cllr K Angus.

Hetton Colliery Railway 200 Committees:

Lectures, Publications and Exhibitions: Cllr K Angus

Learning: Cllr K Angus

Events: Cllr D Brennan.

8) Calendar of meetings

TC referred to the previously circulated meetings calendar.

Town Council **resolved** to approve the proposed dates and, following discussion to amend the start times of Full Council meetings for November, December, January and February to 6.00pm.

9) Public participation

Town Council heard very strong representations from MoP's present which were highly critical of the lack of action by Northumbria Police and Tyne and Wear Fire & Rescue Service in response to serious disorder in Easington Lane on 13 May 24.

MoP's were advised by the former Town Mayor that immediate representation had been made to the Chief Constable and this had led to Town Council representatives attending an urgently convened stakeholder meeting.

Town Council **resolved** to maintain dialogue with the emergency services and other partner organisations and press for answers and details of accountability.

10) Minutes

a) Town Council **resolved** to approve the draft minutes of the meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 15 April 2024.

b) Town Council **resolved** to approve the draft minutes and recommendations of the Meeting of Events & Special Activities Committee held on Tuesday 23 April 2024.

c) Town Council **resolved** to approve the draft minutes and recommendations of the Meeting of the Staff, Employment & Training Committee held on Tuesday 30 April 2024.

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11) Reports from Members

Cllr K Angus:

Reported that the path from Eppleton Primary School to the Three Tuns PH continued to be a problem area for dog fouling.

Town Council **resolved** that this matter be referred to SCC.

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

There were no Sunderland City Councillors in attendance.

13) Update from Town Clerk

TC reported that he had received permission from Hetton Town Trust for the display of the portrait of King Charles III in addition to retaining that of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

TC added that he had now selected a suitable group photograph of Full Council and he would make arrangements to have this framed.

Town Council **resolved** to note the Town Clerk's update.

14) Financial report

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

Income:

Sunderland City Council:

1st instalment 24-25 precept £31469.00

1st instalment 24-25 LCTSG £5922.50

Houghton le Spring Residents CIC (re-imbursement for Easter Eggs) £165.00

Total: £37556.50

Staffing expenditure:

HMRC (additional payment for April 24 - software error) £168.77

Town Clerk net salary (includes add. hrs for Apr 24; mileage claim) £1590.50

HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities) £592.76

NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions) DD £108.04

Sub-total: £2460.07

Other expenditure:

North East Mobility Warehouse (Provision of Puffing Billy at Xmas event) £300.00

"Rumours" acoustic duo (entertainment for 26 April event) Cash £300.00

BT (monthly broadband charge) DD £41.98

Home Bargains (4 x 500 A4 paper @ £3.99 each) DC £15.96

Hetton Town Trust (Room hire for 16/4 and 26/4; room dressing for 26/4) £468.75

Centre Spot Café (Catering - 26 April event) £850.00

K Hosking (photography for 26 April event) £50.00

Sunderland City Council (fee at St Mary's car park) DC £1.60

Tesco (1 x A4 refill pad) DC £1.50

EE (mobile phone - 4 May 24) DD £11.32

Konica Minolta (print and copy charges 10 05 24 - 09 05 24) £51.22

Newton Newton Flags (Flag for D-Day 80) DC £28.80

Transfer to HTC Town Mayor Fund for 2024-2025 (Co-op account) £1750.00

Sub-total: £3871.13

Signed:

Date:

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Item 14 cont ...

Community Grant Awards (subject to decision at Item 15):

Hetton Home Care	£750.00
Elemore Colliery Banner Action Group	£700.00
Sub-total:	£1450.00

Total: £7781.20

Barclays Current account balance @ 17 May 24:	£120,386.83
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£112,6005.63

Barclays Reserve account: Balance @ 17 May 24:	£28,810.27
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Town Mayor Fund

Income:

Donations and raffle proceeds - 26 April 24 event	£876.00
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Expenditure:

MS Trust (Donation from Fund 23-24)	£1308.00
Moorsley & District CIO (Donation from Fund 23-24)	£1308.00
Account balance @ 17 May 24	£2616.00
Account balance after payments	Nil

15) Community Grant Awards

TC introduced this item and confirmed that both applications were bona fide.

Town Council **resolved** that:

The application received from Hetton Home Care for £750.00 be rejected.

The application received from Elemore Colliery Banner Action Group for £700.00 be approved.

16) Appointment of Internal Auditor

Town Council **resolved** that A Simpson Financial Services be appointed to act as Internal Auditor.

17) Planning applications

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

23/02499/FUL:

Hetton Car Sales, Station Road, Hetton-le-Hole DH5 9JB

Proposal: Proposed change of use of former car sales / showroom to a retail convenience store / supermarket, plus alterations to existing shop front and introduction of two chiller condensing units. (Part Retrospective)(amended plan, detailing parking arrangement received 01.05.24).

Applicant: Mr. Ramalingham Sutheswaran

Town Council **resolved** that the previous objection be restated.

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Signed:

Date:

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Item 17 cont ...

24/00911/VAR

Land at North Road Hetton-le-Hole Houghton-le-Spring

Proposal: Variation of conditions 2 (Approved Plans), 6 (Water Quality Points) and 7 (Flow Monitoring) of previously approved application 23/01950/VAR to vary the materials and the wording of the water quality point and flow monitoring conditions
Applicant: Persimmon Homes (Durham)

Town Council **resolved** that the further information be sought from SCC.

18) Hetton Town Trust

Cllr K Pearson (trustee) advised Council that as business had been of a confidential nature she was unable to provide an update following the recent board of trustees meeting.

Following discussion, Town Council **resolved** to note the position and asked that TC request from Hetton Town Trust a copy of their Complaints Policy and Procedure.

19) The Hetton Centre - Sunderland City Council consultation

TC reported that he had been contacted by SCC requesting the Town Council's views relating requests received for use of The Hetton Centre.

Town Council **resolved** that:

The request from Healthwatch Sunderland to hold informal advice session be supported;

and

The request from the Centre Spot Café to allow dogs be restricted to external areas only, with the exception of assistance dogs.

20) General correspondence

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

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Updates - 18 April, 24 April and 14 May **Noted**

New model Financial Regulations **Remit to MP&F Cmtee**

Finance & comms training **Noted**

Sunderland City Council:

Information sharing across VCS Network **Noted**

VCS meeting notes - 5 March and 7 May 24 (incl. Family Hub presentation) **Noted**

Response to HTC request for asset transfer of planters **Consider at future meeting**

Response to FoI request re War Memorial **Consider at a future meeting**

21) Date and time of next meeting: 19.15 hrs on Monday 17 June 2024.

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Signed:

Date: