



Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 21 October 2024 at The Hetton Centre, Hetton-le-Hole, County Durham, DH5 9NE

Note: The meeting (Items 1-17 only) was audio recorded throughout by a Member.

Present

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

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of Public (MoP) x 3

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Bonsall (domestic matter), Cllr J Defty (work commitment), Cllr S Holt (prior engagement) Cllr W Little (away) and Cllr C Willis (medical).

Town Council **resolved** to approve the apologies received.

2) Declarations of Interest

Non pecuniary interests were declared by Cllrs S Waterston and P Dowell in relation to Item 8; and by Cllrs D Brennan, D Geddis, P Hall and S Waterston in relation to Item 15 (24/00851/FUL).

3) Minutes

a) Town Council **resolved** to approve the draft minutes of the meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 23 September 2024 subject to the wording of Item 5 being amended from "20mph speed limit" to "traffic calming measures".

b) Town Council **resolved** to:

To approve the draft minutes of the meeting of the Events & Special Activities Committee held on 10 October 2024 as a correct record;

1 of 6

Signed:

Date:

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Item 3b cont ...

And, following a named vote;

To reject the recommendation relating to Item 6 (Children's Christmas Party); and request that Events & Special Activities Committee reconvene to seek an alternative date and/or venue for a Children's Christmas Party.

Voting record:

For - Cllrs R Elvin, L Gibson, J Green, P Hall, H Morton, K Pearson, K Rowham, D Thomas and S Woods-Brass.

Against - Cllrs K Angus, D Brennan, P Dowell, D Geddis, M Pigdon and S Waterston.

Abstain - Cllr R Meadows.

c) Town Council **resolved** to:

Approve the draft minutes of the meeting of the Management, Policy & Finance Committee held on 16 October 2024 as a correct record;

Note the minute relating to Item 6 and review Standing Orders in line with prevailing NALC model after a period of six months had elapsed;

Reject the recommendation relating to Item 8 (Town Council newsletter);

and, following a named vote:

Reject the recommendation relating to Item 9 (Recording of Council meetings) and request that Management, Policy & Finance Committee reconvene to re-examine the topic on receipt of a definitive position from County Durham Association of Local Councils.

Voting record:

For - Cllrs R Elvin, L Gibson, J Green, P Hall, H Morton, K Pearson, K Rowham, D Thomas and S Woods-Brass.

Against - Cllrs K Angus, D Brennan, P Dowell, D Geddis, R Meadows, M Pigdon and S Waterston.

4) Public participation

MoP:

Ongoing concerns about the deteriorating condition of the former Crown Public House. Poor condition of former Hetton Nursery School and overgrown hedges from the site encroaching onto adjacent path.

Drain and cover outside Price Wise, Front Street, Hetton has been tarmacked over.

Town Council **resolved** that TC refer to SCC.

2 of 6

Signed:

Date:

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5) Reports from Members

Cllr R Meadows:

Dog waste bins in Hetton Downs are not being emptied regularly.

Cllr K Rowham:

Seeks an explanation from SCC for the exclusion of Sport England from the consultee list relating to Planning Application 23/00747/FUL.

Cllr R Elvin:

Requests the all-year round illumination of the suspended HTC logo at Hetton Mini Park.

Cllr S Waterston:

Reports rat sightings in Caroline Street, Hetton due to disturbance caused by major roadworks.

Exposed inspection cover in Hetton Lyons Country Park behind BMX track.

Requests the introduction of traffic calming measure at Broomhill Bank (A182), Hetton.

Town Council **resolved** that TC refer to relevant agencies.

6) Sunderland City Councillor(s)

There were no City Councillors in attendance.

7) Financial report

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

Income:

Sunderland City Council:

2nd instalment 24-25 precept

£31469.00

2nd instalment 24-25 LCTSG

£5922.50

Total: £37391.50

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (includes add. hrs for September)

£1554.03

HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)

£575.10

NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)

DD £104.37

Sub-total: £2233.50

Other expenditure:

Adobe Ireland (monthly charge for Adobe Pro)

DC £19.97 BT

(monthly broadband charge)

DD £41.98

Phone Trader, Sunderland (replacement plug and cable for iPhone SE)

DC £14.99

Sunderland City Council (St. Mary's Car Park charge)

DC £1.60

Home Bargains (2 x 500 A4 paper)

DC £7.98

Hetton Town Trust (room hire)

£50.00

T&A Dixon Accountancy Services (payroll services Apr 24 - Oct 24)

£60.00

EE (mobile phone - 4 Oct 24)

DD £11.32

Sunderland City Council (recharge for Xmas trees 2024)

£7700.00

AF Entertainments (Halloween Party event 27 Oct 24)

£180.00

The Events Company (Supplier bookings for Xmas event)

£1445.00

Sub-total: £9532.84

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Signed:

Date:

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Item 7 cont

Community Grant Award (subject to decision at Item 8):

Hetton Local & Natural History Society

£750.00

Sub-total: £750.00

Total: £10,282.84

Barclays Current account balance @ 21 Oct 24:

£134,259.60

Anticipated current account balance if all paid:

£123,976.76

Barclays Premium account:

Balance @ 21 Oct 24:

£29,026.16

Town Mayor Fund

Income:

Nil

Expenditure:

Nil

Co-op Account balance @ 21 Oct 24

£1775.00

8) Community Grant Award

Cllrs P Dowell and S Waterston left the meeting for the duration of this item.

Cllr D Geddis presided in their absence.

Town Council **resolved** to approve the application received from Hetton Local & Natural History Society for £750.00.

9) Town Clerk update

TC reminded Members of the deadline for nominations for Champions of the Community Awards, provided updates re planters and email issues and sought volunteers to assist with the Halloween event on 27 October.

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

10) War Memorial - Hetton Mini Park

TC reported that arrangements were progressing with plans to hard-surface the War Memorial site.

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

11) 36 Squadron Air Cadets

Town Council **resolved** to nominate Cllr D Geddis to serve on the committee.

12) Quotations for illuminating Christmas trees 2024

Town Council **resolved** to accept the quotations provided by Balfour Beatty and that TC continue dialogue with the supplier to establish any scope for cost reductions.

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13) Members use of Social Media

TC reported that he had been requested to include this agenda item after concerns were expressed to him about the content of some posts by Members on social media and other online platforms.

Town Council **resolved** that Members be mindful of the content of their posts in a personal capacity and the potential for breaches of the Code of Conduct

14) National Transport Trust - Red Wheel scheme

Town Council **resolved** that TC liaise with Members who offered suggestions of sites for potential nomination.

15) Planning matters

24/00851/FUL

Easington Lane Community Access Point Brick Garth, Easington Lane, DH5 0LE
Proposal: Demolition of west side of Community Hall. Single storey infill extension with roof garden between Miner and Community Hall. Alteration to existing pedestrian ramps and steps. Alteration to existing vehicle access and parking areas. Replacement cladding to Community Hall. Installation of Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs) and solar panels. (Biodiversity net gain and bat survey received 7.10.2024).
Applicant: Easington Lane Community Access Point
Town Council **resolved** no comments or objections.

24/02108/TPA

All Saints Vicarage Church Road Hetton-le-Hole, DH5 9AJ
Proposal: Works to trees - T11 (Ash) Crown lift to 3m, T13 (Sycamore) Prune to Clear adjacent building by 3m, T14 (Sycamore) Crown lift to 3m, T15 (Sycamore) Crown lift to 3m and prune to clear the lamp post by 0.2m, T16 (Sycamore) Crown lift to 3m, T18 (Sycamore) Crown lift to 3m, T19 (Sycamore) Crown lift to 3m and prune to clear the telegraph pole by 0.2m, T20 (Sycamore) Crown lift to 3m, T22 (Poplar) Fell as close to current ground level as practical, T23 (Poplar) Reduce the crown spread by 4-5m to minimise wind sale.
Applicant: Mr Andrew Steel
Town Council **resolved** no comments or objections.

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16) General correspondence

Town Council **resolved** to note all items of correspondence.

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Updates - 27 Sept, 4 and 11 October 24.

Campaign to Protect Rural England:

Response to National Planning Policy Framework (circulated 7 Oct)

ELCAP:

Notification of AGM on 6 November (circulated 18 Oct)

James Etherington Trust:

Request to display poster

Sunderland City Council:

Minibus for sale (circulated 21 Oct)

Invitation to engage with Food Hubs (circulated 21 Oct)

17) Date and time of next meeting

Monday 18 November 2024 commencing 18.00 hrs.

Confidential Business:

Town Council **resolved** that Members of the public and press be excluded under the provisions of the Exclusion under the Admissions to Public Meetings Act 1960.

18) Hetton Town Trust

Following a named vote ,Town Council **resolved** that this matter be referred to the Charity Commission.

Voting record:

For - Cllrs R Elvin, L Gibson, J Green, P Hall, H Morton, K Pearson, K Rowham, D Thomas and S Woods-Brass.

Abstain - Cllrs K Angus, D Brennan, P Dowell, D Geddis, R Meadows, and S Waterston.