



Hetton Town Council



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

Note: The meeting was audio recorded throughout by a Member.

Present

Cllrs K Angus, J Bonsall, D Brennan, P Dowell, D Geddis, L Gibson, P Hall, W Little, R Meadows, H Morton, D Thomas, S Waterston (Town Mayor) and C Willis.

In attendance

Graeme 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 J Defty (working away), Cllr S Holt (prior commitment), Cllr K Pearson (medical) and Cllr M Pigdon (work commitment).

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

No apologies for absence had been received from Cllr R Elvin, Cllr J Green, tCllr K Rowham or Cllr S Woods-Brass.

Town Council **resolved** to record their absences as unapproved.

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 21 October 2024.

b) Town Council **resolved** to approve the draft minutes of the inquorate meeting of the Events & Special Activities Committee held on 7 November 2024.

4) Public participation

MoP offered his thanks to the Town Council, Sunderland City Council and Bellway North East for facilitating improvements to the War Memorial site.

MoP reported overgrown trees from the site of the former Hetton Nursery school, together with significant leaf accumulation in the vicinity.

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MoP reported damaged coping stones within the grounds of Little Pioneers nursery and damaged railings.

MoP reported accumulation of flammable rubbish at Manor House, Easington Lane and rat sitings at the location.

5) Reports from Members

There were no issues raised.

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: Nil

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (includes add. hrs for October)	£1971.74
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£759.07
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £142.49
Sub-total:	£2873.30

Other expenditure:

Adobe Ireland (monthly charge for Adobe Pro)	DC £19.97
MTFX Online Ltd (10 x poppy cannon for Remembrance Day & Armistice Day + delivery)	DC £149.16
Price Wise Bargains (cable ties for RBL decals)	DC £36.77
Sweet Bouquets and Treats (Halloween event)	Cash £125.00
Home Bargains (Confectionary for Halloween event)	DC £27.33
Aldi Stores (fruit selection for Halloween event)	DC £13.22
Fantabulous Faces (Halloween event)	Cash £180.00
BT (monthly broadband charge)	DD £41.98
Flagpole Express (1 x Lest We Forget Flag plus delivery)	£44.40
Royal British Legion (3 x poppy wreaths)	Cash £60.00
Price Wise Bargains (cable ties for RBL decals)	DC £8.97
EE (mobile phone - 4 Nov 24)	DD £11.32
Hetton Town Trust (Room hire charges for 16, 21 and 27 Oct 24)	£162.50
Home Bargains (4 x 500 A4 paper plus 2 x 50 envelopes)	DC £17.94
Narked Ltd (Domain renewal registration fee 23-25)	£240.00
Sunderland City Council (Static Guarding at The Hetton Centre - Halloween Event 27/10)	£98.94
Easington Lane Community Access Point (1 x poppy wreath)	£20.00
K Hosking Photography (Armistice Day pics)	£40.00
PA Media Group (copyright infringement fee)	DC £439.20
Sub-total:	£1796.70
Total:	£4610.00
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Signed:

Date:

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Barclays Current account balance @ 15 Nov 24:	£129,074.91
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£124,464.91

Barclays Premium account:	
Balance @ 15 Nov 24:	£29,026.16

Town Mayor Fund

Income:	Nil
Expenditure:	Nil
Co-op Account balance @ 15 Nov 24	£1775.00

8) Town Clerk update

TC reported that he had circulated information to Members re social media guidelines and responses to queries about the recording of parish and town council meetings.

TC further advised that:

The external sign at The Hetton Centre had now been cleaned;

Installation of the Christmas tree at Hetton Downs had been slightly delayed;

The Community Chest application for assistance with increased Christmas tree lighting costs at East Rainton and Moorsley was likely to be rejected;

and,

No response had been received from Hetton Town Trust re Warm Space.

Town Council **resolved** to note the update provided by TC.

9) Meetings calendar 24-25

TC advised that it was necessary to change 2 x Full Council meeting dates previously confirmed at May 24 meeting.

Town Council **resolved** that new, re-arranged dates would be Tuesday 22 April 2025 and Monday 19 May 2025.

10) Children's Christmas Party

TC provided information on venues and date availability, following the decision by Town Council to re-instate the event.

Following discussion, Town Council **resolved** that the event would be held at The Hetton Centre on Sunday 15 December 24.

11) Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government

Consultation - remote attendance and proxy voting in local authority meetings

TC referred to the consultation link circulated on 14 November 24.

Following discussion, Town Council **resolved** to align its position with that to be submitted by County Durham Association of Local Councils and National Association of Local Councils.

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Signed:

Date:

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12) VCS Network

Cllr K Angus provided a verbal update re the meeting held on 5 November 24. This had focussed on a presentation delivered by The Mental Shift CIC - a charity delivering support to young males.

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

13) National Pay Award 24/25

TC introduced the previously circulated report and advised that arrears would be payable.

Town Council **resolved** that TC prepare the necessary calculation and seek authorisation from Cllrs Waterston and Dowell prior to notifying the payroll provider.

14) Champions of the Community Awards

TC introduced the previously circulated report.

Town Council **resolved** that TC contact the winners and arrange a presentation ahead of Christmas.

15) Members Register of Interests

TC reminded Members of the legal requirement to complete a new Register of Interest form in the event of any change in circumstances.

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

16) CDALC Larger Councils Forum - 15 November 24

Cllr D Geddis provided a verbal update. Key topics had included information about safeguarding and building society accounts for the sector.

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

17) General correspondence

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

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Update - 24 Oct and 8 Nov. **Noted**

25 Oct - LGA Speech by A Rayner MP **Noted**

30 Oct - Surveys / Consultations **Noted**

1 Nov - Increase in Employer NI Contributions **TC to seek illustrations of effect**

7 Nov - Royal Garden Party 2025 **Nominate Cllr K Pearson**

Sunderland Culture:

Unlock Creative Opportunities Support Grant **Noted**

Legend on the Bench Charity:

Suicide Prevention benches **TC to seek further information re design options and suppliers.**

18) Date and time of next meeting

Monday 16 December 2024 at 18.00 hrs.