



Hetton Town Council



**Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on
Monday 20 January 2025
at
The Hetton Centre, Hetton-le-Hole, County Durham, DH5 9NE**

Note: The meeting was audio recorded throughout by 3 x Members.

Present

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

In attendance

Graeme Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)

1) Apologies for absence

TC reported that an apology for absence had been received from Cllr R Meadows (access to mobility issue). Town Council **resolved** to approve the apology. No apology for absence had been received from Cllr P Hall. Town Council **resolved** to record her absence as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Minutes

Town Council **resolved** to approve the draft minutes of the meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 16 December 2024.

4) Public participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

5) Reports from Members

Cllr. C Willis:

Broken / part missing metal barrier to prevent access by quads / bikes requires urgent repair / replacement. Location is Byer Square, Hetton-le-Hole, DH5 9AZ.

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Item 5 cont ...

Cllr K Pearson:

Flagstones in Front Street and Market Street in Hetton are damaged and require repair.

Reports that a circular manhole / drainage cover on grassed area outside 22 St. Cuthbert's Close, Hetton is damaged and part-exposed. Requests repair.

Cllr. W Little:

Excessive mud on road at A182, South Hetton Road.

Cllr D Geddis:

Rats sighted on new Bellway construction site at Murton Road.

Cllr L Gibson:

Reports that a gate to the left-hand side near Moorsley Hut leading onto the public footpath (old railway line to Rainton /Pittington) is being left open and access is being gained by unauthorised vehicles.

Cllr. K Angus:

Reports an open cellar hatch in footway at former Crown PH requires making safe.

Cllr. S Waterston:

Dog fouling problem on the Stephenson Trail (esp. Three Tuns PH to the Seven Sisters) - requests regular attendance of dog warden.

Seeks details of no. of fines issued for dog fouling offences in Hetton ward.

Fly tipping requires removal at York Crescent (packaging).

Requests speed checks on A182 (Broomhill) and the introduction of traffic calming measures.

Issus at car wash at Four Lane Ends, Easington Lane - the bollard that they knocked down was replaced by SCC, however, the car wash staff are continuing to drive vehicles through the bollards which are located in front of the school crossing.

Cllr K Angus:

Seeks action to resolve flooding issues at 2 x roundabouts at Four Lane Ends, Easington Lane and additionally at rear of Caroline Street, Hetton.

Cllr D Brennan:

Reports that Easington Lane Clock is not working again.

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

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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 Dec 24)	£1613.38
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£600.17
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £109.57
Sub-total:	£2323.12

Other expenditure:

Adobe Ireland (monthly charge for Adobe Pro)	DC £19.97
BT (monthly broadband charge)	DD £41.98
EE (mobile phone - 4 Jan 25)	DD £11.32
Forvis Mazars (fee for Limited Assurance Review - AGAR 23-24)	£378.00
Sunderland City Council (Static guard cover for 15 December Xmas event)	£98.94

Sub-total: £550.21

Total: £2873.33

Barclays Current account balance @ 17 Jan 25:	£115,837.78
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£112,964.45

Barclays Premium account:	
Balance @ 17 Jan 25:	£29,134.71

Town Mayor Fund

Income:	Nil
Expenditure:	Nil

8) Budget position and Precept 2025-2026

Town Council **resolved**:

To note the budget position for 24-25;

The budget illustration for 25-26 be remitted to Management, Policy and Finance Committee for consideration and recommendations;

A 2% increase in precept for 2025-2026 based upon a Band D charge of £15.05, and,

That Town Clerk notify Sunderland City Council (the billing authority) accordingly.

Signed:

Date:

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9) Town Clerk update

TC advised that he had received notification from SCC on 20 January 25 that the appeal relating to Planning Application ref 23/02499/ FUL (Hetton Car Sales, Station Road, DH5 9JB) had been allowed by the Planning Inspectorate.

TC brought to Members' attention the Sunderland Young Achievers' Awards 2025 and suggested that the Town Council's Under 18 winners of the Community Champion's Award for 2023 and 2024 be nominated.

Town Council **resolved** to note the verbal update received from TC and make nominations to SYAA 25 as suggested.

10) Disclosure and Barring Service

TC introduced the previously circulated report.

Town Council **resolved** that this topic be remitted to a meeting of Management, Policy & Finance Committee for consideration.

11) Unsigned Minutes of HTC Full meeting - 15 July 2024

The Member who presided as Chairman at the 23 September 2024 meeting of Hetton Town Council confirmed that the Minutes of the 15 July 2024 meeting would be signed, with the addition of an appropriate footnote.

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

12) General correspondence:

Town Council **resolved** that correspondence be delegated for action to TC in conjunction with Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor.

13) Date and time of next meeting

Monday 17 February 2025 commencing 18.00 hrs.