



Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 17 March 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, D Geddis, L Gibson, P Hall, W Little, H Morton, K Pearson, K Rowham, D Thomas and S Waterston (Town Mayor), C Willis and S Woods-Brass.

In attendance

Member of Public (MoP) x 2

Graeme Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Cllr R Elvin (work), Cllr J Green (work), Cllr S Holt (vehicle breakdown), Cllr R Meadows (unwell) and Cllr M Pigdon (work).

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

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 17 February 2025.

4) Public participation

There were no comments from the members of the public in attendance.

5) Reports from Members

Cllr K Pearson:

Expressed concerns about the condition of rear yards of properties in Edward Street and Fairy Street, Hetton. Requests SCC to inspect and take enforcement action.

Cllr L Gibson:

Concerned about the ineffectiveness of 20mph speed limit signs painted on Moorsley Road.

20mph speed limit on Springwell Terrace is not being enforced.

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Signed:

Date:

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Item 5 cont ...

Obsolete directional signs in Hetton for the now closed Hetton Nursery School require updating.

Cllr D Geddis:

Seeks action re unsafe condition of former Manor House Care Home in Easington Lane.

Cllr P Hall:

Queries ownership of the notice board sited at Moorsley Road.

Cllr D Thomas:

Seeks details of levels of support from SCC for asylum seekers / refugees relating to digital skills and language support.

Cllr D Brennan:

Reports that Easington Lane Clock is still not working.

Cllr K Rowham:

Requests details be sought from SCC relating to expenditure on Elemore Country Park and Café together with details of performance against project success criteria.

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

There were no City Councillors in attendance.

7) Community Grant Award

Town Council **resolved** to approve the application received from Hetton Lyons Cricket Club for £750.00.

8) Advertising board sponsorship request

Town Council **resolved** to approve the request received from Hetton Lyons Cricket Club.

9) Financial report

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

Income:

Barclays Business Premium Account (interest)	£103.05
Groundwork NE (Grant from 3 Together Big Local)	£3000.00
Total:	£3103.05

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary	£1315.79
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£471.11
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £82.86
Sub-total:	£1869.76

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Other expenditure:

Adobe Ireland (monthly charge for Adobe Pro)	DC £19.97
Konica Minolta (print and copy charges: 10 Nov 24 - 9 Feb 25)	£23.27
Hetton Lyons CC (advertising board for 24 and 25 - subject to decision at Item 8)	£240.00
Price Wise, Hetton (A4 plastic wallets)	DC £3.18
A E Simpson Financial Services (budget assistance)	£130.00
Hetton Town Trust (Room hire - 17 02 25)	£22.50
EE (mobile phone - 4 Mar 25)	DD £11.32
BT (monthly broadband charge)	DD £38.33
Amazon (5 x 500 x A4 paper plus misc. stationery)	DC £37.54

Sub-total: £526.11

Community Grant Award;

Hetton Lyons Cricket Club (subject to decision at Item 7)	£750.00
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Total: £3145.87

Barclays Current account balance @ 13 Mar 25:	£102,765.02
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£99,619.15

Barclays Premium account:	
Balance @ 13 Mar 25:	£29,237.76

Town Mayor Fund

Income:	Nil
Expenditure:	Nil
Co-op Account balance @ 13 Mar 25	£1775.00

10) Town Clerk update

TC reported on the following topics:

Feedback had been received from SCC to Members issues reported at January Full Council. This had been circulated on 6 March.

No definitive response from SCC after six months re request for permission to site new planters - this is being progress chased.

Gentoo had granted permission for a planter at Pemberton Bank.

No response had been received from SCC or lighting contractor to a request for a meeting to discuss options for Xmas trees and illuminations for 2025. This was being progress chased.

The recently renewed account with BT for broadband supply had been allocated an incorrect organisation name. TC will write to BT to clarify and request a formal change.

Easington Lane Clock was scheduled for a contractor visit on 10 April and repairs were expected within four weeks of that date.

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Signed:

Date:

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Item 10 cont ...

County Durham Day is 20 March and a photo opportunity was being arranged for 10.00am on that date to which Members were invited.
Town Council **resolved** to note the update provided by TC.

11) Asset Register 24-25

TC introduced the item and previously circulated document.
TC highlighted additions and amendments for 24-25.
Town Council **resolved** to approve the Asset Register for 24-25 and note the ongoing work by TC.

12) Risk Assessment 24-25

TC introduced the item and previously circulated document.
Town Council **resolved** to approve the Risk Assessment for 24-25.

13) VE Day 80 - 8 May 25

Cllr K Angus explained that since initial discussion of the commemoration at Events & Special Activities Committee held on 10 February 25, it had become clear that the commemoration had gained a higher national profile.
Council was requested to review the initial allocated event budget.
Town Council **resolved** to allocate a budget of up to £3000.00.

14) Membership of Staff, Employment & Training Committee

Following a vote by show of hands, Town Council **resolved** to endorse the temporary, ex-officio membership of the Town Mayor.

15) Coalfield VCS Network - 4 March 25

Cllr K Angus provided a verbal update and advised that Durham Wildlife Trust had been focussing on support for young people including the provision of apprenticeships.
Town Council **resolved** to note the update.

16) Coalfield Area Committee - 12 March 25

Town Council **resolved** to defer this item to the 22 April 2025 meeting.

17) Appointment of Internal Auditor

Town Council **resolved** to appoint AE Simpson Financial Services to fulfil the role of Internal Auditor for 24-25.

18) General correspondence

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

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:
Updates - 28 Feb, 5, 11 and 12 March **TC to action as relevant**

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Item 18 cont ...

Hetton Juniors FC:

Request for sponsorship **TC to provide details of CGA scheme**

Sunderland City Council:

VCS - Notes of 4 Feb 25 meeting **Noted**

Sunderland Culture:

Arts Council England review (circulated 06 03 25) **Noted**

Durham Wildlife Trust:

Litter pick assistance **TC to liaise re assistance**

19) Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 22 April 2025 commencing 19.15hrs.

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Signed:

Date: