



Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Tuesday 22 April 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, P Dowell, R Elvin, D Geddis, P Hall, S Holt, W Little, R Meadows, H Morton, K Pearson, M Pigdon, K Rowham, D Thomas, S Waterston (Town Mayor), and C Willis.

In attendance

Member of Public (MoP) x 1

Graeme Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were reported from Cllr L Gibson (holiday) and Cllr S Woods-Brass (work).

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

No apology for absence had been submitted by Cllr J Defty or Cllr J Green.

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 17 March 2025.

b) Town Council **resolved** to approve the draft minutes of the inquorate meeting of the Events & Special Activities Committee held on 27 March 2025.

c) Town Council **resolved** to:

Approve the draft minutes of the meeting of Management, Policy & Finance Committee held on 10 April 2025 as a correct record;

Amend Standing Orders to incorporate minor revisions to Item 23;

Accept all other recommendations.

Note:

A proposal by Cllr K Rowham, seconded by Cllr R Elvin not to accept Committee's recommendation relating to SO 3s was defeated following a vote by show of hands.

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4) Public participation

There were no issues raised.

5) Reports from Members

Cllr K Angus:

Reported that a Northumbria Police Speed camera van located on Houghton Road opposite Hetton Park was obstructing the footpath.

Cllr P Hall:

Reports that parked vehicles on Moorsley Road are obscuring vision for drivers exiting Ennerdale Street. Requests the installation of a traffic mirror or an alternative solution.

Cllr S Waterston:

Reports dumped flooring in waste bins at Hetton Cemetery.

Requests more frequent emptying of dog waste bins on Stephenson Trail.

Specific issues with excess accumulation at rear of Broom Hill, vicinity of 3 Tuns PH and Lawnswood.

Cllr R Meadows: Requests installation of a dog waste bin (large) between All Saints Drive and Regent Street, Hetton.

Cllr W Little: Requests additional dog waste bins be installed through the area.

Town Council **resolved** that TC contact the relevant bodies to progress the 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:

HMRC (VAT refund 2023-2024)	£2221.51
Sunderland City Council:	
Local Council Tax Support Grant 2025-2026 (1 st instalment)	£5922.50
Precept 2025 - 2026 (1 st instalment)	£32,718.50
Unpaid cheque returned	£100.00
Total:	£40,962.51

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary	
(incl. add. hours Feb and March; payment in lieu of annual leave 24-25)	£3660.00
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£1601.84
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £256.83
Sub-total:	£5518.67

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Other expenditure:

To 31 March 25

Westoe Gallery (picture framer - Member group photo)	Cash £45.00
Adobe Ireland (monthly charge for Adobe Pro)	DC £19.97
BT (monthly broadband charge)	DD £38.33
Hetton Town Trust (Room hire - 17 03 25)	£60.00

From 1 April 25

County Durham Association of Local Councils (Subscription 2025 - 2026)	£2720.26
SLCC Enterprises (13 th edition Local Council Administration)	DC £142.40
Rialtas Business Solutions (software licence renewal 24-25)	£243.60
Empire Medals (VE Day 80 lapel badges x 50) DC	£363.70
EE (mobile phone - 4 April 25)	DD £12.04
Royal British Legion Industries (VE Day 80 bunting and decals)	DC £493.07
21CC Group Ltd (Beacon crown for VE Day 80)	DC £356.70
North East Regional Employers Organisation (Vacancy advert - NE Jobs website)	£150.00
JW Plant & Co Ltd (VE Day 80 flags x 2)	DC £89.59
Fantasy Fairytales (Characters for 18 April Easter event)	£315.00
Fantabulous Faces (face painter for Easter event on 18 April)	Cash £220.00
Aldi Stores, So. Shields (Easter Eggs x 288 for 18 April event)	DC £410.40
Badgemaster Limited (artwork origination fee - photo ID cards)	DC £78.00
Badgemaster Limited (photo ID cards incl. holders and lanyards x 21)	DC £187.84
Aldi Stores, So. Shields (misc. fruit and soft drinks for 18 April event)	DC £39.36

Sub-total: £5985.26

Total: £11503.93

Barclays Current account balance @ 17 April 25:	£137,780.64
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£126,276.71
Barclays Premium account:	
Balance @ 17 April 25:	£29,237.76

Town Mayor Fund

Income:	Nil
Expenditure:	Nil
Co-op Account balance @ 17 April 25	£1775.00

8) Town Clerk update

TC advised re the following:

Dialogue with SCC officers re permissions for siting planters was at an advanced stage;

Member ID cards were now in production and delivery was expected by end April;

A meeting with SCC officers, lighting contractor and E&SA Cmtee would be arranged in May;

Hetton Lyons Cricket Club had provided photographs of the existing HTC banner and costs for replacement;

A request to open a locked cabinet in TC office had been made to a local locksmith, but the work was declined due its vintage;

TC reminded Members that in the run up to the NE Mayoral election in 2024, all candidates had been approached by County Durham Association of Local Councils for details of their position re the local council sector, and responses received circulated.

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Town Council **resolved** to:

Note the verbal report of the Town Clerk;

Commission a replacement banner for display at Hetton Lyons Cricket Club ground;
and,

Contact CDALC to follow up the undertakings of the successful candidate for Regional Mayor.

9) Planning matters

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

25/00619/FUL

58 Bailey Way Hetton-le-Hole DH5 0HD

Proposal: Erection of single storey front and two storey side extension.

Applicant: Mr Graham Short

Town Council **resolved** no comments or objections.

25/00596/FU4

Eppleton Primary School House Church Road Hetton-le-Hole DH5 9AJ

Proposal: Change of use of residential dwelling to storage facility for school resources. (RETROSPECTIVE)

Applicant: Eppleton Academy Primary

Town Council **resolved** no comments or objections.

25/00578/LP3

Land south of Cygnet Way, Rainton Bridge South

Proposal: Proposed development to comprise of office, welfare and workshop areas, fleet vehicle garages, salt barn and gritter vehicle store, external hardstanding areas for additional fleet parking, skip storage and ancillary facilities (including a truck wash bay, refuelling area and containerised storage). Staff parking for 50 vehicles.

Applicant: Sunderland City Council

Town Council **resolved** to submit an objection to SCC on the following grounds:

The development will lead to the removal of a footpath adjacent to the A690 and a wooded area

and,

Adverse effect on the wildlife corridor.

25/00738/FUL

3 Bradley Terrace Easington Lane DH5 0JY

Proposal: Internal and external alterations including changing dormer to tile hanging

Applicant: Campbell Homes (NE) Ltd

Town Council **resolved** no comments or objections.

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25/00763/ADV

171 High Street Easington Lane, DH5 0JS

Proposal: Replacement of existing poster sign with 1no. internally illuminated digital poster sign

Applicant: Wildstone Estates Limited

Town Council **resolved** to submit an objection to SCC on the following grounds:

Light pollution, distraction to highways users, and a design unsympathetic to surroundings.

10) Civic artefacts

TC expressed his view that a range of historic civic artefacts held in the office would be best displayed in the Council Chamber along with reinstated and recent group photographs of Hetton Town Council Members. Together, the items could be viewed by members of the public by appointment with the Town Clerk.

He additionally suggested that digital photos of all items could be published on the Town Council's website to form a "virtual" museum.

Town Council **resolved** to:

Approve the suggestions put forward by the Town Clerk;

and,

Request that he write to Hetton Town Trust to seek permission for the display of the items.

11) Coalfield VCS Network - 1 April 25

Cllr K Angus provided a verbal report.

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

12) Coalfield Area Committee - 12 March 25

Cllr W Little provided a verbal report.

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

13) General correspondence

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

County Durham Association of Local Councils:

Updates 1 and 11 April **Noted**

External auditor presentation and AGAR news **Noted**

Sunderland City Council:

Funding opportunities (circulated 22 April) -

Community Assets **Noted**

Holiday Activities for Children & Young People **Noted**

D Faulkner, Student, University of Portsmouth:

Fraud in local Councils study **TC to complete**

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14) Date and time of next meeting (Annual)

Monday 19 May 2025 commencing 19.15hrs.

Confidential Business:

Members of the public and press to be excluded (Exclusion under the Admissions to Public Meetings Act 1960)

Town Council **resolved** to exclude members of the public and press.

15) The Hetton Centre

TC introduced the previously circulated correspondence and provided context.

Following discussion, Town Council **resolved** that independent advice be sought to inform next steps.

16) Staff resource

Cllr P Dowell provided a verbal update on the process and timescale for the recruitment and appointment of a new Town Clerk.

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

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Signed:

Date: