



Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 18 August 2025 at The Hetton Centre, Welfare Road, Hetton le Hole, County Durham, DH5 9NE

Present

Cllr K Angus, Cllr J Bonsall, Cllr D Brennan, Cllr P Dowell (Town Mayor), Cllr D Geddis, Cllr P Hall, Cllr S Holt, Cllr W Little, Cllr H Morton, Cllr M Pigdon, Cllr S Waterston and Cllr C Willis.

In attendance

L Hall (Town Clerk), 2 MoP.

1) Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Elvin (Holiday), Cllr L Gibson (Holiday), Cllr J Green (Prior commitment), Cllr R Meadows (Family Commitment), Cllr K Rowham (Holiday), Cllr K Pearson (Prior commitment) Cllr D Thomas (Prior commitment) and Cllr Woods-Brass (Holiday)

Town Council **resolved** to approve absences.

No apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Defty.

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

2) Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Public participation:

A MoP noted a number of local issues including:

- Fly Tipping on the unadopted road behind Price Wise
- Barnes Street Carpark – non-existent markings and footpath very overgrown.
- Hetton Nursey – had there been any progress? The building is becoming derelict and an eye sore.

Town Council **resolved** to contact SCC to report these issues.

- The Crown Public House – renovations seem to have started – had planning permission been approved? Town Council noted that they had not received notification of a planning application for the 12 apartments advertised.

4) Minutes:

Town Council agreed to **approve** the minutes and recommendations of the following meetings:

- Hetton Town Council 21 July 2025.
- Management, Policy & Finance Committee 31 July 2025.

5) Christmas Trees 2025

Town Council **resolved** to purchase smaller Christmas trees and coloured lights for the tree in Hetton Town Centre.

6) Flower Planters

6a. Town Clerk update

Permission had been granted from SCC and Gentoo to install three planters – Persimmon Bank Easington Lane, Durham Road East Rainton and Hetton Road Hetton-le-Hole.

6b. Members to consider quotes

TC presented three options:

1. 1m square galvanised steel £630 + £75 per side for text
2. 1.2m Octagonal plastic planter £403.92 + £12 per side for text
3. 1m square plastic £633.60 + £12 per side for text

Town Council **agreed** to purchase three Galvanised Steel Planters.



7) Planning matters:

SCC Consultations – various traffic calming measures - Town Council made **no objections**.

8) Reports from Members:

8a. Ward matters to be investigated.

Cllr Hall

- Reported fly tipping at No 1 Kirkdale Street, Moorsley.
TC to report to Gentoo.

Cllr Pearson (via Cllr Willis)

- Excessive weeds in Hetton
- Tree down behind the Blacksmiths

Cllr Willis

- Byre Street – vehicles etc being parked on the green, area looks unsightly
- Motorbikes – still have returned since the fencing was opened up for pushchairs

Cllr Waterston

- The road surface at the pedestrian crossing at Front Street/Park View is very poor

Cllr Morton

- Parking outside of Parry's/Barbers at the bottom of Caroline Street is ridiculous – area is supposed to be loading only.

Cllr Little

- Litter is a problem which is not being enforced.

Cllr Geddis

- Asked for an update regarding the BT exchange in Easington Lane
- Manor House – the weather will soon change yet no works have been done to secure the roof. TC had written to Bridget Phillipson MP, Various departments within SCC and the registered owner. Environmental Health reported no action was needed at the site following their inspection. TC to contact the Building Inspector.

8b. To consider adopting the Members Reports Policy.

The Town Council **agreed** to adopt the policy, with the provision that it be reviewed in Six months.

9) Financial report:

9a. Town Council to consider the report and approve expenditure.

Town Council **agreed** to approve the report.

Income: NIL

Staffing expenditure: NIL

Other expenditure:

Adobe Ireland (monthly charge for Adobe Pro)	£19.97
BT (monthly broadband charge)	£41.93
Lebara (Mobile Phone)	£1.58
Scribe (Monthly charge)	£58.80
Hetton Town Trust (Room hire)	£67.50
Home Bargains (Picture frame)	£2.49
MTFX (Confetti Canons – Remembrance)	£149.16
Dell (Laptop)	£825.00



Hetton Town Council



Amazon (Laptop accessories)	£16.98
Groupon (Microsoft Subscription)	£8.40
Wild at Heart (Garden Award Flowers)	£40.00
Newton Newton Flag (VJ Day Flag)	£30.60

Sub-total: £1,262.41

Total: £1,262.41

Barclays Current account balance @ 14 August 25: **£12,782.66**

Barclays Premium account balance @ 14 August 25: **£129,334.89**

Town Mayor Fund

Income: NIL

Expenditure: NIL

Co-op Account balance @ 14 August 25 **£2,000.00**

9b. To review current budget spend

TC presented two reports to council noting the current spend against budget.

Town Council noted the reports.

10) The General Power of Competency

Town Council agreed that it met the following criteria:

- At least two thirds of members are elected
- Town Clerk is qualified Clerk (CiLCA)

Town Council **resolved** to adopt the General Power of Competency.

11) Town Clerk update:

Café at Elemore Park – SCC advised that work was ongoing and the hope was to be open prior to the music festival.

Gentoo have confirmed attendance at the Full Council meeting on Monday 15th September. Any questions/queries from members to be emailed to LH by Thursday 11th September.

12) General Correspondence:

CDALC – response to letter regarding Durham Miners Gala – distributed to members.

A resident had contacted TC regarding issues experienced with a HMO next door.

Town Council resolved to:

- Write to SCC and the management company on their behalf.
- Write to SCC about implementing Article 4 directions for all HMO's.
- Request a copy of the HMO register.

HALO reported that ASB was down by 46% compared with the same period last year. However, members questioned whether this reflected a genuine reduction, or whether people had simply stopped reporting incidents. It was noted that HALO is not easily accessible to members of the public — the doorbell has been removed and, when contacted by telephone, callers are often advised to ring 101 or 999. Members felt that HALO is intended to operate as a community policing programme, but that this is not currently the case.

Town Council **resolved** to contact the superintendent for a meeting.

13) Community Champions

Any nominations to be emailed to TC by 30th September.



Hetton Town Council



14) Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 15 September 2025 commencing 7.15pm.

Meeting closed to MoP 8.20pm

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

15) The Hetton Centre

Town Clerk provided an update.

16) NJC Pay Award 2025

Town Council **agreed** to award the pay increment to the TC and former TC.

Meeting closed 9.00pm