



Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 15 September 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 L Gibson, Cllr P Hall, Cllr S Holt, Cllr R Meadows, Cllr K Pearson, Cllr K Rowham, Cllr S Waterston and Cllr Woods-Brass.

In attendance

L Hall (Town Clerk), Louise Bassett, Simon Walker, James Taylor, Chris Roberts and Louise Buckton (Gentoo) & 4 MoP

The meeting was voice recorded by one member throughout

1) Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Thomas (prior commitments), Cllr M Pigdon (family commitments), Cllr W Little (family commitments), Cllr H Morton (unwell), Cllr C Willis (appointment), Cllr J Defty (working) and Cllr R Elvin (working). Town Council **resolved** to approve absences.

There were no apologies for absence from Cllr J Green.

Town Council **resolved** to note the absence as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest:

Cllr P Hall, Cllr D Geddis, Cllr S Waterston, Cllr K Angus & Cllr D Brennan declared an interest item 9b.

3) Gentoo Housing

Louise Bassett (CEO), Simon Walker (Company Secretary and General Counsel), James Taylor (Head of Neighbourhoods), Chris Roberts (Director of Customer) and Louise Buckton (Operations Director) attended the meeting on behalf of Gentoo to answer questions from Councillors and members of the public. See Appendix A

4) Public participation:

A MOP raised concerns about the number of cars parking on paths outside of the swimming baths. It was noted that parking/highways falls under SCC.

A MOP noted the overgrown greenery next to Barnes Street Carpark – noting that the path was not passable and requested street lighting at the back of Caroline Street.

It was **agreed** the Town Clerk raise these issues with SCC.

5) Minutes:

Town Council **agreed** to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 18 August 2025.

6) Sunderland City Councillors:

There were no SCC Councillors in attendance.

7) Planning matters:

25/01940/FUL Erection of first floor extension and increasing the depth of the existing garage 6 Willington Close Hetton-le-Hole Houghton-le-Spring DH5 9GG

Town Council made **no objections**.



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8) Reports from Members:

Cllr Hall questioned if, now that the dark nights were here could meetings start earlier. Following a vote, it was agreed that meetings start at 6.45pm from October.

Cllr Waterston and Cllr Geddis had attended a meeting of Churches together discussing plans for Remembrance and Armistice Day – an update was provided to Council.

Cllr Pearson raised concerns about Edward Street – stating it is looking for untidy.

Cllr Gibson asked if there was a way to enforce private landlords to sort their properties. It was noted that this should be reported to SCC enforcement.

9) Financial report:

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

Income:

Barclays Bank (interest)	£371.07
Total:	£371.07

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary	£3,424.92
Former Town Clerk (back pay)	£114.29
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	£216.37
HMRC	£908.41
Sub-total:	£2,094.06

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)	£60.00
MK Illuminations	£115.98
Campaign to Protect the Countryside (membership)	£36.00
Amazon (Stationary & Equipment)	£63.03
Simply Plastics (noticeboard)	£54.58
Sunderland CC (HMO Register)	£75.00
Narked Ltd (website)	£225.00
Currys (Microsoft)	£84.99
Maxwells (noticeboard)	£8.50
Sub-total:	£845.36

Community Grant (ELCAP) (Subject to approval at item 9b)	£700.00
Total:	£3,639.42

Barclays Current account balance @ 9 September 25:	£9,851.15
Barclays Premium account balance @ 9 September 25:	£129,705.96

Town Mayor Fund

Income: NIL

Expenditure: NIL

Co-op Account balance @ 8 September 25	£2,000.00
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9b. To consider approval of Community Grant Award requests

ELCAP had requested £700 towards a pantomime.

All members who declared an interest left the meeting whilst discussions took place.

Town Council **agreed** to approved the donation.

9c. To approve quotation for Christmas tree lights

Town Council **agreed** to accept the quote from The Festive Lighting Company for colourful lights with a white sparkle to be used on the Hetton Town Centre tree.

Cllr Rowham left the meeting 20:40

9d. To consider quotations for refurbishments to Civic Chains

Town Council **agreed** a budget of £1,000.

10) Town Clerk update:

Enforcement Officers had visited Caroline Street, Loading Bay on several dates, however no PCNs had been issued. It was noted that Parking Services are reliant on a driver being on duty, and not all officers are able to drive.

Regarding The Crown Inn and the suspected unauthorised building works, the enforcement team have been on site and confirmed that the works carried out were not as originally reported. It was also noted that rumours of the building being converted into an HMO were not correct.

There had been no reports of littering in the past twelve months. Both Front Street and Caroline Street are subject to a robust litter-picking schedule. SCC will ask the Community Safety Officer to undertake a leaflet drop encouraging the reporting of issues.

Flower planters had been ordered, although no responses to the tender have been received to date.

In relation to complaints at the HMO on Regent Street, the Town Clerk wrote to Mears Ltd in August, but no response had yet been received.

Finally, regarding flooding issues in Easington Lane, SCC have been in contact with Northumbrian Water, and works are scheduled to begin shortly to repair the broken drains.

11) General Correspondence:

There were no items of correspondence to discuss.

12) Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 20 October 2025 commencing **6.45pm**.

Meeting closed to the public at 20.50

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

13) The Hetton Centre

Town Clerk provided an update to members.