



Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 20 October 2025 at The Hetton Centre, Welfare Road, Hetton le Hole, County Durham, DH5 9NE

Present

Cllr J Bonsall, Cllr D Brennan, Cllr J Defty, Cllr P Dowell (Town Mayor), Cllr R Elvin, Cllr L Gibson, Cllr P Hall, Cllr B Little, Cllr H Morton, Cllr K Pearson, Cllr M Pigdon, Cllr K Rowham, Cllr D Thomas, Cllr S Waterston and Cllr C Willis.

In attendance

L Hall (Town Clerk) & 6 MoP

The meeting was voice recorded by two members throughout

The Town Mayor led the Town Council in a minute's silence in remembrance of Councillor Claire Rowntree, Sunderland City Councillor Hetton Ward.

1) Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Angus (Holiday), Cllr Holt (Unwell), Cllr J Green (Holiday), Cllr D Geddis (unwell), Cllr S Woods-Brass (family commitments) and Cllr Meadows (Medical).

Town Council **resolved to approve** the absences.

2) Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Waterston declared an interest in item 12.

3) Public participation:

There were no comments from members of the public.

4) Minutes:

Town Council **agreed** to approve the following minutes:

- Hetton Town Council held on 15 September 2025.
- E&SA Committee meeting held on Monday 29th September 2025.
- MP&F Committee meeting held on Thursday 25th September 2025.
- SE&T Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15th October 2025.

5) Sunderland City Councillors:

There were no City Councillors in attendance.

6) Planning matters:

25/02225/FUL 44 Hollowdene Houghton-le-Spring DH5 9NG formation of tiers and erection of new boundary fence to rear garden - Town Council made **no objections**.

Sunderland City Council (Group order various restrictions) (Various locations) Traffic Regulation Order 2025 - Town Council made **no objections**.

20mph zone, Lyons Edge, Hetton-le-Hole - Town Council made **no objections**.

7) Reports from Members:

Cllr Hall

- Enquired about progress at 1 Kirkdale Street. Cllr Gibson provided an update received from Gentoo, noting that they were still working with the resident.
- Requested that a traffic mirror be installed at the junction of Ennerdale Street and Moorsley Road, as parked cars are obstructing visibility.

Cllr Gibson

- Advised that an FOI had been submitted to SCC regarding Elemore Country Park, seeking information on current activities and expenditure to date.
- Reported that information was still awaited from Gentoo in relation to the S106 payment details.



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- Informed members that Gentoo were arranging a clean-up day, with skips to be delivered to Peat Carr and Moorsley on 30th October – further information to follow.
- Requested an update on the drainage works; it was noted that works were still ongoing and had now moved to Station Road.
- Enquired whether there was any update on the sites of the former Fox and Hound or Bog Row School, noting that the Fox and Hound site was looking particularly untidy.

Cllr Pearson

- Noted the damaged railings at the Nursery had been reported and are getting fixed.

Cllr Thomas

- Enquired about progress regarding Manor House, Easington Lane. It was noted that several organisations had been written to, as well as the owners; however, there had been no progress. It was **agreed** that the matter would be escalated with SCC.
- Thanked the Town Clerk for the advice provided in relation to a member of the public's query.

Cllr Little

- Noted that SCC had been litter picking in the area.

Cllr Pigdon arrived at 19.08pm.

8) Financial report:

8a. The Town Council **agreed** to approve the finance report.

Income:

Amazon (Refund)	£14.48
Sunderland City Council (Precept & LCTSG Grant)	£32,718.50
Eppleton Quarry Products	£5,000.00
Total:	£37,732.89

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary	£1,705.41
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	£107.47
HMRC	£534.11
Sub-total:	£2,346.99

Other expenditure:

Adobe Ireland (monthly charge for Adobe Pro)	£19.97
BT (monthly broadband charge)	£41.93
Lebara (Mobile Phone)	£3.95
Scribe (Monthly charge)	£58.80
Amazon (Stationary & Equipment)	£38.91
The Festive Lighting Company (Tree lights)	£1,878.12
Royal British Legion (Cash)	£100.00
MTFX (Poppy Cannons)	£66.36
Moonpig (Condolence Card)	£6.78
TA Dixon (Wage Services)	£90.00
Aldi (Halloween)	£11.89
B&M (Halloween and Christmas)	£416.46
Poppy Shop (Poppies)	£125.00
RBL (Decals)	£122.98
Post Office (Postage & Stamps)	£9.57
Sub-total:	£2,990.72

Community Grant (Little Legends) (Subject to approval at item 8b)	£750.00
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Total: £6,087.71

Funds Transferred (Community Account to Savings Account):	£35,000.00
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Barclays Current account balance @ 16 October 25:	£11,299.58
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Signed:

Date:

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Barclays Premium account balance @ 16 October 25:

£164,705.96

Town Mayor Fund

Income: NIL

Expenditure: NIL

Co-op Account balance @ 16 October 25

£2,000.00

8b. To consider approval of Community Grant Award requests

Little Legends had requested £750 towards equipment and running costs.

Town Council **agreed** to defer discussions until further information had been obtained.

8c. To consider quotation for the supply and installation of illuminated sign

Town Council **agreed** to the quotation.

9) Suicide Prevention Bench – Hetton Mini Park

Town Council **agreed to proceed** with the project providing there were no unexpected costs.

10) Hetton Town Focus Magazine

It was **agreed** that the Town Council would establish a Newsletter Working Party to develop a range of options and investigate the associated costs. Members interested in volunteering are asked to contact the Town Clerk.

Cllr Elvin & Cllr Rowham left the meeting at 7.28pm.

11) Flower Planter Tenders

The Town Clerk noted that the planters were due to be delivered soon and that only one tender had been submitted, which was relatively expensive. It was **agreed** to contact a local company regarding the placement of the flower planters and then consider arranging for them to be planted. It was also suggested that local schools and/or organisations might be interested in helping with planting and ongoing maintenance. Town Clerk to make enquiries.

12) Culture for Hetton Statue in Hetton Town Council

Cllr Waterston noted that Culture for Hetton were looking to wind up the charity and asked if the Town Council would consider adopting the mining statue in Hetton Town Centre. It was noted that other options had been suggested, but Hetton Town Council would be the preferred option.

Cllr Waterston left the meeting to allow for discussion.

It was **agreed** that the Town Council would investigate insurance costs and carry out the necessary due diligence before deciding.

13) Town Clerk update:

The Town Clerk noted the following:

- Halloween Party, Sunday 26th October, 2–4pm – set up from 12.30pm. Assistance from anyone available would be appreciated.
- Remembrance, Tuesday 11th November – invitations had been issued. Please RSVP to the Town Clerk.
- The coal tub in the bus station had been refurbished thanks to Springboard. The Town Clerk will order new signage and suggested planting bulbs for spring, Town Council **agreed**.
- Christmas Fayre, Friday 28th November, 4–7pm – the event had been advertised. Some setup would take place in the afternoon, and volunteers were welcomed.
- Request for street lighting behind Caroline Street – SCC stated it was not an adopted highway and therefore unable to provide lighting. It was **agreed** that the Town Council would make enquiries about costs and seek support from Gentoo, Halo, and the Police and Crime Commissioner.



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- New signage had been installed outside the Hetton Centre.

14) General Correspondence:

- ELCAP – AGM Thursday 6th November, 6pm.
- Gentoo – had written to Status Rentals Ltd regarding Manor House, Easington Lane.
- Sunderland City Council – Notice of Vacancy on the City Council. Should a by-election be called, it will take place on Thursday 27th November.
- Ad Gefrin – requesting nominations for community members or groups that go above and beyond. The email had been forwarded to members.

15) Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 17 November 2025 commencing 6.45pm.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm.

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

16) The Hetton Centre

An update was provided to full council.