



Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 19 January 2026 at Moorsley Hut, Moorsley Road, Hetton-le-Hole, DH5 0ED

Present

Cllr K Angus, Cllr J Defty, Cllr P Dowell (Town Mayor), Cllr L Gibson, Cllr J Green, Cllr P Hall, Cllr S Holt, Cllr W Little, Cllr R Meadows, Cllr M Pigdon, Cllr K Rowham, Cllr S Waterston, Cllr C Willis and Cllr S Woods-Brass.

In attendance

L Hall (Town Clerk), Cllr I McKinley (SSC) & 5 MoP

1) Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Bonsall (unwell), Cllr D Thomas (holiday), Cllr D Geddis (unwell), Cllr D Brennan (family commitment) and Cllr K Pearson (prior commitment).

RESOLVED: That the apologies be accepted.

No apologies for absence had been received from Cllr H Morton or Cllr R Elvin.

RESOLVED: That their absence be noted as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Public participation:

A member of the public requested support in relation to ongoing antisocial behaviour behind Mardale Street and Cragdale Gardens. It was noted that the area was being used for scrapping vehicles, which was attracting groups of youths. It was further reported that fencing had been removed, allowing motorbikes to use the route to the Country Park, and that rubbish was being burnt. The Police were noted as being aware of the issues. The Council agreed to request a multi-agency meeting in relation to the area.

It was noted that the public footpath in the field adjacent to Valley View contained non-tethered horses, which some residents found off-putting. Council noted that landowners are permitted to keep livestock in fields crossed by public footpaths.

A member of the public asked for clarification regarding what "Wassailing" was, following its advertisement on social media as taking place at Hetton Park. The Council noted that it had not been previously made aware of the event; however, a brief search indicated that it was being organised by Links to Nature.

Concern was raised regarding the ongoing issue of vehicles parking on double yellow lines in Hetton, which has been occurring for many years. Specific issues were highlighted in relation to Caroline Street and the Post Office area. It was suggested that the existing fencing be extended outside the Post Office to deter vehicles from stopping and parking on the main road. It was also requested that SCC consider the installation of bollards at Caroline Street, and other problem areas, to deter parking and improve pedestrian safety. The Council further queried whether the provision of CCTV could be explored.

A member of the public advised that they had purchased a property in Hetton on the understanding that they would be able to purchase the adjoining land, which had been approved by SCC. It was reported that a neighbour had since constructed a garage on the land and that SCC appeared to have withdrawn from its original agreement. The Council advised the member of the public to seek independent legal advice.



Hetton Town Council



4) Minutes:

The following meeting meetings were **approved** by the Town Council:

- Hetton Town Council held on 15 December 2025.
- P&D Committee held on Thursday 8th January 2026.
- E&SA Committee held on Thursday 15th January 2026.

5) Sunderland City Councillors:

Cllr I McKinley reported that there were no updates to provide.

6) Reports from Members:

Cllr K Rowham:

- **Colliery Lane (industrial estate):** It was noted that several trees had been cut down, which was considered unsightly, particularly as the industrial buildings were now visible where they were previously screened by greenery. Communication with SCC confirmed that the works were carried out due to several trees being diseased and posing a safety risk. SCC also advised that there are no plans to plant replacement trees, as the remaining trees now have additional space to grow.
- **Manor Care Home:** A resident had complained about the amount of rubbish piled up outside the premises. TC to again report the issue to SCC.
- **Girven Terrace:** A resident had raised concerns about the high number of cars and vans parked on the street, many of which appear not to be in use. TC to request support from SCC.

Cllr C Willis:

- **Byer Square:** It was noted that the area is increasingly being used for dumping rubbish, which is then being burnt. The alleyway was described as in an unsatisfactory condition due to the volume of waste present. TC to report the issue to SCC.
- It was also noted that off-road bikes regularly ride around the adjacent farmer's field on Sundays, creating a danger for pedestrians. In addition, Gentoo has blocked off one of the greens with large boulders, resulting in deep tracks being created in the grass. If not reinstated correctly, these may become a permanent feature and prevent the area from being used safely for play. It was agreed that the Council would request a further meeting with Gentoo.

Cllr P Hall:

- **Moorsley Road:** Reduced visibility was noted due to the volume of parked cars. It was further noted that this issue had previously been reported to SCC, who advised that mirrors are not used on the highway and that there was no evidence of a need. It was agreed that TC would respond to SCC to ask what time of day the site was inspected and, if a mirror is not considered appropriate, what alternative measures could be implemented.
- **Kirkdale Street:** No. 1 was again noted to be in a poor state of repair. It was agreed that this matter would be raised with Gentoo.

Cllr S Waterston:

- **Dog fouling on Stephenson's Trail:** It was noted that patrols are required in the area to enforce the fines displayed, as the condition of the paths is currently very poor. It was also noted that the bins are not being emptied on a regular basis. TC to write to SCC to raise these issues.
- **Speeding vehicles:** Residents had raised concerns about speeding vehicles on Bedford Street and Devon Street. TC to speak with Gentoo regarding possible solutions.



Hetton Town Council



Cllr L Gibson:

– **Elemore Park – dog attack:** It was asked whether Elemore Park is covered by a Community Protection Order following incidents involving dogs being attacked by off-lead dogs. Clarification was also sought on whether dogs are required to be kept on leads within the park. TC to liaise with SCC to confirm the position.

Cllr S Holt:

– **Cowley Crescent / Lloyd Avenue, East Rainton:** A resident had reported repeated damage to their fence caused by vehicles failing to stop at the junction and has requested support, including whether a crash barrier could be installed. It was also noted that traffic is particularly heavy during school drop-off and pick-up times, creating a potential safety risk. The introduction of traffic-calming measures was discussed. The Council to speak to SCC and request patrols during school times.

Cllr S Woods-Brass:

– **Girven Terrace:** Residents have reported issues with rats. Cllr Woods-Brass provided details on how such problems can be reported.

– **Caravan:** Gentoo had been asked to move a caravan; however, it was noted that it was simply relocated to the opposite side of the road.

– **Allotments:** Concerns were raised that tenants are being given differing permissions depending on which SCC officer they had spoken to. TC to invite a representative from the Allotments Team to attend a meeting to clarify the issues raised.

7) Financial report:

The finance report was considered and approved by the Town Council.

Income: NIL

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary	£1,796.06
Sub-total:	£1,796.06

Other expenditure:

Lebara (Mobile Phone)	£3.95
Hetton Town Trust (Meetings)	£111.00
BT (Broadband)	£41.93
Scribe (Monthly charge)	£58.80
Konica Minolta (printing)	£17.60
Hetton Town Trust (rent)	£4,000.00
Chat GPT (Subscription)	£20.00
Balfour Beatty (Christmas Trees)	£7,093.76
Sub-total:	£11,347.04

Funds Transferred (Savings Account to Community Account):	£13,000.00
---	-------------------

Barclays Current account balance @ 19 January 26:	£7,336.58
---	------------------

Barclays Premium account balance @ 19 January 26:	£128,635.87
---	--------------------

Town Mayor Fund

Income: NIL

Expenditure: NIL

Co-op Account balance @ 13 January 26:	£2,000.00
--	------------------

8) New AGAR requirements for 2025/26

The new AGAR requirements for 2025/26 in relation to Assertion 10 were discussed. The Council considered and **agreed** the quotation for support from the Council's website provider.



Hetton Town Council



9) Timeclock for Illuminated Motif

The quotation to install a timeclock on the illuminated motif was considered and **agreed**. It was further noted that one section of the motif was faulty and that the Town Clerk had contacted the supplier to arrange the necessary repairs.

10) The Hetton Centre Lease

The Town Clerk reported that there had been no further updates regarding the lease at the Hetton Centre.

11) Hetton Town Council Newsletter

The Council **approved** the newsletter for publication.

12) Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

13) Events & Special Activities Committee Vacancies

There were two vacancies on the Events & Special Activities Committee. Cllr P Dowell and Cllr C Willis were **appointed** to fill the vacancies.

14) Town Clerk update:

A response had been received in relation to the request submitted in October 2025 for a traffic mirror at the junction of Moorsley Road and Ennerdale Street. It was noted that mirrors are not used on the highway for safety reasons and that there was no evidence to support the need.

The Council requested that alternative solutions be investigated and that a site visit be undertaken at 5.00–6.00 pm to observe the impact of evening parking.

15) General Correspondence:

Several requests for additional grit bins had been received following the recent adverse weather, specifically for Wear Street and John Street, Hetton and Hedgelea Road, East Rainton. The Council agreed to write to SCC regarding the possibility of installing additional grit bins. It was also requested that confirmation be sought as to whether a map of existing grit bin locations is available and whether the bins are being regularly refilled.

SCC had contacted the Town Clerk to advise that fire safety training was required for all tenants of the Hetton Centre. The Council queried who would be responsible for the cost of the training. The Council also raised concerns regarding compliance with fire regulations when the main doors are locked during meetings, as the exit door requires a fob to operate.

CDALC had circulated a list of forthcoming training courses available to Councillors.

16) Timing of Meetings

The Council proposed a permanent change to the start time of Council meetings to 6.45 pm. Following a vote, 13 members voted in favour and 1 member voted against.

RESOLVED: That the proposal be approved.

17) Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 16 February 2026 commencing 6.45pm at **The Hetton Centre**.

Meeting closed at 20:15pm