



Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 20 April 2026 at The Hetton Centre, Welfare Road, DH5 9NE

Present

Cllr K Angus, Cllr J Bonsall, Cllr D Brennan, Cllr J Defty, Cllr P Dowell (Town Mayor), Cllr R Elvin, Cllr L Gibson, Cllr J Green, Cllr P Hall, Cllr S Holt, Cllr W Little, Cllr H Morton, Cllr M Pigdon, Cllr K Rowham, Cllr D Thomas, Cllr C Willis & Cllr S Woods-Brass.

In attendance

L Hall (Town Clerk) & 5 MoP

1) Apologies for absence

Cllr D Geddis (unwell), Cllr S Waterston (unwell) & Cllr R Meadows (unwell).

Resolved: that the apologies be accepted.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Public participation

A member of the public requested an update in relation to several matters previously raised:

1. **A182 Zebra Crossing** – Initially raised in December; no response had been received from Sunderland City Council. A petition signed by over 100 residents had been submitted but perceived as ignored. It was noted that the petition had been approved by Sunderland City Council (via Ian Scott).
It was **agreed** that the matter be escalated as a formal complaint.
2. **Fencing outside the Post Office** – No update or feedback had been received.
3. **Flooding outside Heron Foods** – Gullies had been cleaned; however, due to a lack of recent rainfall, it is unclear whether this has resolved the issue.
4. **Traffic flow through Hetton** – No response had been received to date.
5. **Allotments at the Downs** – Sunderland City Council are in the process of installing barriers to prevent vehicle access.

Issues were reported in the Mardale Street/Cragdale Gardens area, including scrap vans, the burning of rubbish and anti-social behaviour involving quad bikes, motorbikes and catapults, raising concerns about potential harm to wildlife on the former golf course. It was noted that fencing between 20 Mardale Street and 41 Cragdale Gardens, (what3words ///rejoins.viewing.spark), had been removed, enabling vehicular access. Cllr Gibson had previously reported the missing barrier in February.

It was **agreed** that the matter be reported to HALO and Gentoo.

A member of the public requested an update regarding the consultation with Gentoo in relation to the proposed development on the school field at Broomhill. Councillor Gibson advised that Gentoo had received the relevant information and was currently considering the findings. The resident noted that the original Bramblewood estate comprised approximately 150 bungalows; however, the current proposal includes only four and suggested that Sunderland City Council apply a planning restriction to limit the development to single-storey dwellings. It was further noted that this may help address concerns regarding traffic. Council **agreed** that this was a positive suggestion and that it be put forward to Sunderland City Council for consideration.

Concerns were raised regarding trees being significantly cut back at 15 Richard Street. A member of the public sought clarification as to who authorised the works and why no prior notification was provided.

It was **agreed** that Sunderland City Council be contacted to request further information. Ongoing issues with dog fouling in the area were also highlighted.



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4) Minutes

The following minutes were **agreed** by the council:

- Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 23rd March 2026.
- P&D Committee meeting held 8th April 2026.

5) Sunderland City Councillors

There were no Sunderland City Councillors in attendance.

6) Reports from Members

Cllr K Rowham

Noted that the former Fox and Hounds site was looking a mess and all the fences were down making the site open – enquire with SCC regarding progress with the site.

Cllr C Willis

It was noted that scrap vans and off-road bikes continue to cause issues in Byer Street/Byer Square. Rubbish was reportedly being dumped on adjacent farmland and subsequently burned; however, Sunderland City Council is unable to remove the waste as it is located on private land. The area is also being used regularly by off-road bikes as a racetrack.

It was **agreed** that a multi-agency approach is required to address these issues, and that enforcement cameras are necessary to support potential prosecutions.

Cllr K Angus

An update was requested regarding Bog Row School, with concerns raised as to why progress had not advanced.

It was also noted that a life ring had been installed at Hetton Lyons Country Park following requests over several years. Concerns were expressed that the equipment may be unsafe to use; however, it was acknowledged that some form of safety provision is necessary.

7) Planning Applications

JA/83302 Sunderland City Council – Waiting and Loading Hylton Road and High Street West, Sunderland

Council raised **no objections**.

8) Financial report:

8a: Council **approved** the financial report.

8b. Council **agreed** to renew their sponsorship for Hetton Lyons Cricket Club.

9) The Hetton Centre Lease

Hetton Town Trust had **agreed** to accept the £4,000 already paid as rent for the 2025/26 financial year, with the understanding that this figure will be reviewed in the future.

10) Highway Concerns – A182

The Town Clerk reported that a revised Freedom of Information request had been submitted to Northumbria Police, with the scope reduced following the previous request being deemed too large. The response indicated that 52 accidents had been reported on the A182 (entire route) over the past 12 months. A response to the Freedom of Information request submitted to Sunderland City Council is still outstanding, despite follow-up correspondence. The information was **noted** by Council, pending receipt of further details.

11) Mayors Charity Race Night

An update was provided to Council regarding the progress made in planning and preparations for the Town Mayor's Charity Race Night, to be held at the Hetton Centre on Friday 8 May 2026. The fundraising arrangements were outlined and volunteers were requested to support the event.

12) To agree a date for the Annual Meeting of Electors

It was **agreed** that the meeting would take place on Thursday 14 May at 6:45pm.



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13) Mining Statue Transfer of Ownership

Resolved that the Council proceed with the transfer from Culture for Hetton, now that all necessary documentation has been identified.

14) General Correspondence

Following the receipt of the requisite number of nominations from residents in the Hetton-le-Hole Ward of Hetton Town Council, an election will be held. In the event of a contested election, the poll will take place on Thursday 11 June.

Sunderland City Council attended a property on Dene Street following reports received by the Town Council from residents regarding the accumulation of rubbish in the garden; however, the matter had been resolved prior to their arrival.

Residents were encouraged to report such issues promptly via the Council's "Report It" online portal, enabling a quicker response and the opportunity to obtain further information where required.

Councillor Meadows reported that Dr James Barker, who had served as a General Practitioner for many years, had sadly passed away and suggested that the Council acknowledge his service.

It was **agreed** that a letter of condolence be sent to the family.

15) Town Clerk update

It was noted that a Facebook post had reported that some of the plants in the East Rainton planter, which had been planted by members of the community, had been stolen.

Council **agreed** to offer to purchase replacement plants when procuring flowers for the remaining planters.

An update was provided to Council regarding fly-tipping on the allotments behind Perkins Close. Sunderland City Council advised that barriers and gates would be installed to prevent vehicular access to the site, following which the accumulated waste would be removed.

An update was received regarding street lighting on Caroline Street. Sunderland City Council advised it would adopt the streetlights and assume responsibility for maintenance, subject to the Town Council funding the installation.

It was noted that the telegraph poles erected on Gillas Lane were for broadband infrastructure and that the land was not designated as Green Belt.

Gentoo had responded to the questions raised at the meeting held at Eppleton Cricket Club.

- It was noted that Gentoo manages 1,611 properties across the Hetton Town Council area, of which 50 were currently vacant.
- In relation to the proposed development on land to the south of Great Lime Road, it was confirmed that the land remains in the ownership of Sunderland City Council.
- A query was raised regarding Section 106 contributions, with a suggestion that Sunderland City Council had previously waived approximately £80,000 due to increased build costs. It was confirmed that, on viability grounds, it had been agreed with the Local Planning Authority that previous phases delivered by Gentoo Homes as market sale housing were not required to make Section 106 contributions.

16) Date and time of next meeting (Annual Meeting)

Monday 18th May 2026 commencing 6.45pm at **The Hetton Centre**.

Meeting closed at 19.54pm.