

**MINUTES OF THE HETTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON MONDAY 12nd NOVEMBER, 2009 IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, OBERTHE HETTON CENTRE AT 7.15 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Mrs. M. A. Adamson, Mayor, in the Chair

Present: Councillors: J. Blackburn, Glover, Mrs. Heron, Hepple, Mrs. E Metcalfe, Nairns, Mrs. Richardson, Robinson, Robson, Steel, Mrs. D. Storey, Tate, Wilkinson. (14).

1. To receive and accept Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. J. Blackburn, S. Blackburn, R. Heron, Maddison, Mrs. Meadows, Mrs. Rankin (7)

2 To receive and approve the Minutes of the last Council meeting held 2nd November, 2009

The Minutes having been distributed to Members it was moved by Councillor Mrs. Heron and seconded by Councillor Robson and RESOLVED that they be accepted as a true record.

3 To consider matters arising from the Minutes

In respect of Item 6a, Mrs. Richardson reported that the Diocese of Durham were to make application to demolish Eppleton Church. The Clerk was asked to write and highlight the problem of the perimeter wall and iron fencing being in a dangerous condition.

4 To record Declarations of Interest from Members for any items on the Agenda

Councillor Mrs. Heron recorded a personal interest as a Member of Gentoo Neighbourhood board.

Councillors Mrs. Meadows, Richardson and Steel declared a prejudicial interest in Item 9, as members of the Hetton Town Community Festival.

5 To adjourn the meeting to allow public participation

6 Ward Matters raised by Members

a. Councillor Wilkinson referred to the right of way correspondence at the area of Stobbs, High Moorsley, which should be copied to Councillor Blackburn and Mrs. Anderson.

b. Councillor Wilkinson referred to the operation of the new pelican crossing at North Road and suggested that the pedestrian safety road barriers should be extended to direct to appropriate crossing point.

c. **Councillor Richardson** referred to the brickwork art feature adjacent to Union Street Church, which was again overgrown and in need of maintenance.

d. **Councillor Richardson** stated that the street lighting was still not operating at footpath St. Cuthbert's Close.

e. **Councillor Richardson** referred to residents ongoing concerns about the van parked on A182 adjacent to the Rectory, Houghton Road, which was causing congestion.

f. **Councillor Robson** reported that the old iron fencing at Hetton Cemetery was badly corroded and in need of replacement

g. **Councillor Glover** referred to the ongoing refurbishment of the former Caroline Public house into a wholesale/retail butchers. He asked that if change of use planning permission was not required, perhaps guidelines and information should be provided.

h. **Councillor Hepple** again reported that cars were parking and causing congestion on the road and footpath at the rear of Regent Street/Francis Way.

7. Christmas 'Celebration with the Community' Event, Friday, 27th November, 2009

The Town Clerk reported that 70 guests will attend including neighboring V.I.P. Civic guests and representatives from community organisations.

8a. To receive the Report of the Town Clerk in respect of proposals for Precept and Budget arrangements for the forthcoming year 2010/2011

The Town Clerk addressed the report and advised Members that the proposal for a 3% increase would give a standstill operation revenue budget and that any special projects would need to be funded from contingency budget.

The possible commitments for the forthcoming year could include, the funding of

1. Rental charges for Hetton Centre accommodation for the Northumbria Police Community Team.
2. Purchase of additional Boundary Identification signs
3. Festive Tubs
4. Ongoing development of Hetton Memorial Park.

It was also highlighted that any community grant operated by E-on or EQP, would be used towards enhancing awards to community organisations.

It was moved by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Robinson and RESOLVED that a 3% budget increase be approved for the Revenue Budget April 2010 to March 2011.

b. To Approve Schedule of Financial Payments Schedule 09/010/09

It was moved by Councillor Mrs. Heron and seconded by Councillor Robson, that the payments be approved.

c. Application for Financial Assistance

Members considered an application from 1st Eppleton Scouts.

Members deferred a decision, the Town Clerk was asked to obtain further detailed information of the requirements of the scouts.

9 Police and Community Forum – Notice of Meeting, Thursday, 19th November, 2009 at the Hetton Centre, 7.00 p.m

Councillors Hepple, Robinson and Nairns agreed to attend the Forum

10 Planning Consultations

a. 09/03370/ADV

Land at Meadow Lane, junction of Durham Road
Advert application - Gentoo

b. Application No. 09/04718/FUL

3 Elvet Green, Hetton-le-Hole
Demolish existing conservatory and erection of single storey extension to rear with pitched roof

11 CCTV Hetton Town Centre

The Clerk reported that an additional camera was to be installed at the entrance area/Welfare Road as part of the construction of the new swimming pool and that the City Security Manager was to meet with NEXUS representatives to discuss effectiveness and operation of the CCTV camera at the transport interchange.

12. Boundary Signage report of Meeting 10th November, 2009

The Town Clerk reported that following a meeting between Members and Ian Pearson, of City Traffic Management Section, where it had been agreed to approve the authorisation of installation of Hetton Boundary Signs. The

signs to be located at up to eleven identified points (although eight were clearly favoured) which will state 'Hetton Town Council welcomes careful drivers' together with the incorporation of the Hetton Crest.

The costs identified for this would be approximately £400 per sign for manufacture and installation.

It was unanimously agreed that this expenditure be approved and the Town Clerk be asked to progress this project.

Signed
COUNCILLOR Mrs. M. A. ADAMSON
Mayor