

**MINUTES OF THE HETTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON MONDAY 7th DECEMBER, 2009 IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, THE HETTON CENTRE AT 7.15 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Mrs. M. Adamson in the Chair

Present: Councillors: Mrs. F. Anderson, W.L. Glover, Mrs. J. Heron, G.W.K. Hepple, A. Maddison, Mrs. E. Metcalfe, C. R. Nairns, Mrs. E. Richardson, W. S. Robinson, Robson, J. Steel, Mrs. D. Storey, R. D. Tate, A. Wilkinson. (15).

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. J. Blackburn, J. Blackburn, S. Blackburn, R. Heron, Mrs. R. Meadows, Mrs. E. A. Rankin. (6)

2 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th November, 2009

The Minutes having been distributed to Members it was MOVED by Councillor Wilkinson, seconded by Councillor Glover and RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as a true record.

3 Matters Arising

None raised

4 Declarations of Interest

None recorded

5 To adjourn the Meeting to allow public participation

Noted

6 Ward Matters – Reports from Members

a. Councillor Wilkinson – advised members that burglaries had occurred at Rainton Meadows H.Q. and East Rainton Cricket Club premises.

b. Councillor Glover – asked if action can be taken to prevent the large amount of cars marked ‘For Sale’ removed from the Fox and Hounds car park. The Town Clerk also reported that this issue had been the subject of concerns and complaints from nearby residents.

c. Councillor Nairns – referred to the ongoing issue of land ownership at Burn Lane. He highlighted it was nearly one year since a meeting had been held in Councillor Anderson’s office in the Civic Centre with Head of

Planning, Keith Lowes. He asked that Mr. Lowes is invited to meet with the Town Council in person to give an update.

d. Councillor Nairns – reported that on Stand D at the Transport Interchange was not working. Councillor Maddison suggested a public clock would be appropriate and useful at the Interchange.

e. Councillor Wilkinson – reported the Front Street public clock was still not illuminated and this had been so for three months.

7 Application for Financial Assistance

An application from Moorsley Residents Association was considered, which had been re-submitted after a request for further details.

It was moved by Councillor Glover and seconded by Councillor Robinson that a grant award of £150 be made to the Association.

8 Barnardo's – Correspondence and Report

Read and noted

9 Licencing Acts 2003 and Gambling Act 2005, applications to be considered

No objections/observations made

10 Proposed Boundary Signage – Design, Location and Designates

After a lengthy debate, members agreed to the design and destination content of the signs. It was RESOLVED that the Town Clerk was authorised to proceed with the installation programme

11. Planning Consultations

a. Application No. 07/05523/MID

Eppleton Quarry

b. Application 07/05522/VAR

Eppleton Quarry

Members discussed the above applications and expressed the need to find more precise information in relation to the applications.

The Town Clerk was asked to invite Mr. Mike Mattox, Development Control Manager to meet with the Council at the earliest opportunity

c. Application 09/0431/SCR

Biomass Plant Waste, Hetton Lyons Industrial Estate

Members noted that many concerns and complaints had been received concerning the existing operation of All Track on this site and wished to ensure any developments were appropriate. The Town Clerk was asked to arrange a site meeting with the appropriate City Planning Officer.

d. Application No. 09/03784/FUL

Unit 10, Lyons Industrial Estate

e. Application No. 09/04428/FUL

Caroline Hotel, Hetton-le-Hole

Erection of single storey extension and re-rendering of western elevation

f. Application No. 09/03837/FUL

17 St. Cuthbert's Close

Erection of Conservatory to rear

No observations/objections were made in respect of above three applications.

12 Special Reports for consideration and information

(i) Christmas Tree, Front Street Mini Park – Vandalism – The Town Clerk submitted a Report.

Unfortunately the tree erected in Front Street Mini Park suffered severe vandalism on 27th November, 2009. The tree is intact but Illuminations destroyed.

There has been a cost provided by the City Council to replace the illuminated lights at £634, the City Council has a policy not to replaced damaged lights as these funds are not included in budget as this is an element that cannot be controlled.

In previous situations in all areas extra external funds have needed to be sourced for such repairs.

The Town Council were requested to discuss and make a decision regarding this matter:-

The Leader, Councillor Hepple, stated that although it is desirable to have an illuminated tree he felt the expenditure to be excessive, he understood the City Council Policy not to replace damaged lights as this could be an uncontrollable expenditure. However, he had contacted Councillor P. Watson, Leader of the City Council to see if he could assist and offer advice. He is awaiting a response. The Town Council deferred any decision on this matter.

(ii) **Report of the Town Clerk**

Welfare Road/Park Estate Footpath (adjacent to the Hetton Centre)

The above issue has been a source of complaint from residents of Park Estate and Springfield Estate for some time, Minutes of Town Council Meetings dated 4th July, 2005 and February 2006 initially highlighted

Council concerns. The initial problem was evident following the construction of a new fence perimeter as part of the Hetton Centre design. Once the issue had been identified several meetings took place between the Town Clerk and relevant City Council Officers between 2005 to date. Matters examined included ownership of land, responsibilities and costs.

The Town Council did discuss the matter at length in 2005/06 and at that time a provisional decision was taken to fund the reinstatement work as being of benefit to the community, preventing possible accidents to pedestrians and making a valuable commitment to the community.

The Town Council were requested to discuss and make decision regarding this matter, as work can be commenced as a matter of urgency when similar highway installation work is being carried out by contractors at the new swimming pool, also this would enable the cost of such work to be kept to a minimum. Correspondence and outline of work expenditure to assist with the decision was also provided.

Members discussed at length the various issues and asked if the maintenance of the footpath would be adopted by the City Council in future.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk proceed with arrangements as outlined.

(iii) *Hetton Town Council – Christmas Operation*

Members were distributed with a memorandum from the Hetton Centre Management and Gentoo which outlined the Christmas closure period of Hetton Centre.

The Town Council has always had a presence during the holiday period, often to prepare for the first meeting of the New Year. However, the Centre will be totally closed for the first time ever and hence Town Council will need to close also. The necessary holiday leave will be booked by the Town Clerk.

The office will close at 4.00 p.m. Thursday, 24th December, 2009 and re-open on Monday 4th January, 2010. The Town Council Meeting will be held at 7.15 p.m. that evening.

Members accepted the Report, however, Councillor Mrs. Anderson queried the decision to close the full facility, losing it to residents, despite facilities in Houghton staying open and asked that the Town Clerk make enquiries regarding this decision.

13 Correspondence received and information to Members

Received and Noted

Signed Councillor Mrs. M. Adamson
Mayor