

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Events & Special Activities Committee meeting held remotely on Monday 14 September 2020

Present:

Councillors R Coulson, T Dodds, D Geddis (Chairman), D Turner, S Waterston and C Willis.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Cllr K Pearson
Cllr R Heron
MoP x 2

1) Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr M Thornton (work commitment).

Cllr D Geddis proposed, seconded by Cllr R Coulson that the apology not be accepted.

Following a vote 4 in favour, 2 against, the proposal was carried.

Committee resolved that the absence of Cllr M Thornton be recorded as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Public participation:

Committee resolved that up to ten minutes be allocated for this item.

There were no comments from MoP's.

4) Remembrance Day 2020

TC reported that he had been in dialogue with Co Durham Association of Local Councils about this topic, but other than Government general guidelines, there were no recommendations from the National Association of Local Councils on how to proceed.

Following full discussion, and recognising the fluctuating position re Covid 19, Committee resolved to recommend that:

A basic plan be developed to incorporate wreath laying by Members at Hetton with a Minister of religion to officiate;

The practicalities of recording and/or live streaming the event be explored by TC (with Cllr S Waterston to identify potential supplier(s) of such services);

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Item 4 cont ...

TC to contact Royal British Legion to establish arrangements for the provision of wreaths and collection boxes;

and,

The position be monitored in light of Covid 19 developments, with appropriate communication provided to the community.

5) Flag poles in Hetton

Cllr D Geddis introduced this item. Following discussion, Committee resolved to recommend that TC:

Obtain up to date costs for the purchase of a flagpole for Hetton Mini Park, together with cost for a 45 degrees flagpole for Easington Lane Memorial Clock;
Establish the necessary permissions required;

and

Contact the Royal British Legion re provision of a flag.

6) Christmas Celebration 2020

Cllr D Geddis introduced this item. He reported that he wished to see the trees at the mini park entrance gates "wrapped" with white lights to enhance the Christmas illumination offer.

In response to a Member query, TC advised that the Town Council had previously agreed to continue with the SCC procurement of Christmas trees. He added that he had received confirmation from Co-op Nursery that it was in order to use their site for the installation of the Hetton tree.

Committee recognised the fluctuating position re Covid 19 and viewed it as unlikely at this stage that any community event to celebrate Christmas would be able to take place. TC highlighted the difficulties in organising an event at short notice.

Following Member comments re problems experienced with Christmas trees in 2019, Committee resolved to recommend that TC write to SCC to re-iterate Council's previous dissatisfaction, seek assurances on quality for 2020 and options for redress should a similar situation arise.

8) Date and time of next meeting

Committee resolved that the date and time of the next meeting would be Monday 12 October at 17.00 hrs.