

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 16 December 2019 at The Hetton Centre

Note: The meeting was audio and video recorded throughout.

Present

Cllrs J Blackburn, R Coulson, J Defty, T Dodds, R Elvin, A Farrow, D Geddis, R Heron, M Hopper, K Pearson (Town Mayor), K Rowham, S Waterston and C Willis.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of the Public (MoP) x 4

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received directly from or on behalf of Cllr J Cunningham (work commitment), Cllr J Green (unwell), Cllr A Liversidge (other engagement), Cllr D Liversidge (other engagement), Cllr S Quigley (unwell), Cllr C Sinnott (other commitment), Cllr M Thornton (work commitment) and Cllr D Turner (unwell).

Cllr D Geddis proposed that the apologies submitted on behalf of Cllr A Liversidge and Cllr D Liversidge not be approved. This was seconded by Cllr K Rowham. Following a vote by show of hands (8 in support, 4 against), Town Council resolved not to approve the apologies submitted on behalf of Cllr A Liversidge and Cllr D Liversidge.

Town Council resolved to approve all other apologies received.

2) Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Public participation

MoP: Advised that he wished to bring to the attention of those Town Councillors and Sunderland City Councillors with roles at Hetton Town Trust (HTT) the following:

Perceived shortfalls in publicity re HTT AGM; concerns relating to HTT officer elections; and the possible removal of leisure equipment from Hetton Centre which he understood was subject to an historic agreement ensuring permanency.

A general discussion took place with contributions from Cllrs R Elvin and R Heron. Town Council resolved to note the comments made by MoP and request that TC write to HTT about his concern.

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3) Public participation cont ...

MoP: Representations about ongoing anti-social behaviour in the area including problems caused by motorcyclists. He added that there was lack of Police presence and that residents were fearful.

A general discussion took place during which Members concurred with the sentiments expressed by MoP and identified the difference in roles between the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

Town Council resolved that TC write to the Chief Constable to request his attendance at a public meeting to discuss ASB in the area and ways to address it.

4) Minutes

a) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 18 November 2019.

b) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Meeting of Events and Special Activities Committee held on Tuesday 19 November 2019.

c) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Meeting of Planning & Development Committee held on Monday 25 November 2019.

d) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Management & Policy Committee held on Tuesday 10 December 2019.

5) Reports from Members

Cllr J Defty:

Seeks an explanation from SCC for the decision not to seek the £80k Section 106 monies from Gentoo re Broomhill development.

Concerns about condition of dilapidated building adjacent to Wesleyan Chapel, Front Street, Hetton.

Cllr K Rowham:

Seeks SCC view on the reason Hetton Town Council were not consulted in decision making process re Gentoo £80k S106 monies.

Concerns over the condition of the former Safari Coaches travel shop building - 1 Station Road, Hetton.

Cllr R Elvin:

Highlighted his view of obfuscation by SCC re S106 monies.

Queried reasons for remarking by SCC of double yellow lines outside of Tesco, when a request was pending for loading bays to be converted to parking space.

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6) Update from Town Clerk

TC reported that he had received further feedback from SCC re issues raised by Members. This had been circulated on 11 December. There remained some outstanding issues requiring their response.

TC advised that SCC had been unable to resolve the health and safety concerns re SuDS at East Rainton first raised in October 19. Following a recommendation by TC, Town Council resolved that this matter now be referred to the Health & Safety Executive.

7) Photocopier lease arrangements

TC reported that he had made contact with Konica Minolta (KM). However, contrary to the previous understanding of TC and Town Mayor, KM had now advised that any change to equipment supplied to reflect the Council's current requirements would be subject to entering an agreement for a further five years.

TC undertook to review his approach and report back to Town Council.

8) Financial report

Town Council resolved to approve the financial report and expenditure outlined below:

Income:

Postage by Phone DD refund 3@£50.00	£150.00
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Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (Dec 19)	£1019.71
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£452.98
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £63.73
Sub-total:	£1536.42

Town Clerk expenditure:

MTFX Ltd: 2 x Poppy launchers incl. postage for Remembrance Day event	£38.55
Post Office: 2 x 12 x 2nd second class stamps @ £7.32 each	£14.64
Wilko:	
2 x 50 pack DL envelopes @ £1.00 each	£2.00
2 x 50 packs punch pockets @ £1.25 each	£2.50
2 x 500 packs A4 copier paper @ £3.00 each	£6.00
Co-op: 4 x confectionary tubs @ £4.00 each (for Christmas event)	£16.00
Aldi: (10 x 5 packs tangerines @ £1.29 each (for Christmas event)	£12.90
Tesco: 2 x 5 packs pocket wallets @ £2.50 each	£5.00
Post Office: 12 x 1st Class stamps	£8.40
Royal British Legion: 2 x wreaths @£18.50 each for Remembrance Day event	£37.00
Sub-total:	£142.99

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8) Financial report cont ...

Other expenditure:

Hetton Town Trust: Room hire- 16 Sept 19 and 21 Oct 19	£30.00
Konica Minolta: photocopy and print costs 10 Aug 19 - 9 Nov 19	£13.49
Balfour Beatty: Moorsley Xmas tree predetermined switch-on time	£201.98
EE (invoice 4 Dec 19)	DD £31.57
Judge & Priestley Solicitors:	
Overdue payment on behalf of Thomson Reuters re Clerk's Guide - March 18	£21.67

Sub-total:

£298.71

Total: £1978.12

Barclays Current account balance @ 11 Dec 19	£40,385.08
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£38,406.96
Barclays Reserve account balance:	£28,365.61

Town Mayor fund:

Income:	Nil
Expenditure:	Nil
Co-op Bank balance @ 11 Dec 19:	£1521.00

9) Planning applications

Town Council considered the following planning applications and resolved to take action as indicated below:

19/01970/FUL

Land East of The Hen House, Elemore Lane, Easington Lane

Proposal: Erection of detached dwelling and garage with associated access, parking and landscaping.

No objections, but to comment on the need to introduce a pedestrian footpath where a grass verge only currently exists.

19/01994/FUL

26 North Road Hetton-le-Hole Houghton-Le-Spring DH5 9JU

Proposal: Erection of a conservatory to rear.

No objections or comments.

19/01469/FUL

83 High Street Easington Lane Houghton-le-Spring DH5 0JR

Proposal: Erection of dormer windows to front and rear, alterations to existing shop front and construction of off-shoot to provide 3no. storage units.

No objections or comments.

10) Planning and Development Committee

TC introduced this item and explained that the frequency of receipt of planning consultations was often out of synchronisation with meetings of Full Council.

He outlined a suggestion that full delegated powers be granted to the Council's Planning & Development Committee in an effort to streamline the process and facilitate swifter responses to Sunderland City Council.

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10) Planning and Development Committee cont ...

TC added that this approach would not undermine Full Council and that matters would still be reported back; with major applications still being able to be considered by Council.

Following full discussion, consensus on the suggested approach was unable to be reached.

Town Council resolved that TC establish how other local councils approached planning consultations and report back to a future meeting.

11) Field House Community Liaison Committee

Cllr M Hopper provided a verbal update including the financial position. He reported that the Committee had been informed of a complaint re site emissions potentially affecting the health of a Co. Durham resident living near the site.

Town Council resolved that TC contact Durham County Council to seek assurances about the effectiveness of the monitoring arrangements.

12) Hetton Town Trust AGM

Cllr Rowham reported that she had attended the AGM. She advised that unaudited accounts had been presented. There had been no agenda item relating to the election of officers. She expressed a view that some improvements could have been made to the organisation of the meeting.

13) Town Mayor issues

Cllr K Pearson verbally reported that she had attended the following engagements in her capacity as Town Mayor:

Showman's Guild Lunch

Air Cadets presentation - Hetton Centre.

Hetton TC Christmas celebration - Methodist Chapel.

Sildon Town Council - annual dinner.

Seaham Town Council - Christmas tea.

Durham County Council - Christmas celebration.

Easington Lane & Hetton Club for the Disabled - Christmas Tea.

ELCAP - Senior Citizens party.

Town Council resolved to note the verbal report from Town Mayor.

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14) Christmas & New Year Business hours

TC outlined a proposal for the closure of the Town Council office from Friday 20 December to Monday 6 January inclusive. Town Council resolved to agree the revised business hours.

15) General correspondence

Complaints x 3 (via email):

Re Christmas trees and/or associated matters. **(Noted)**

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Rural Community Energy Fund **(Circulate)**

Celebrate National Lottery 25 **(Noted)**

Armed Forces Covenant and Outreach Service **(TC to display in notice board)**

Local Electricity Bill **(Noted)**

Disciplinary and Grievance arrangements **(TC to review and table at future meeting)**

Event Management **(Remit to Events & SA Cmtee)**

Power for People:

Request to support the Local Electricity Bill **(Noted)**

Hargreaves Surface Mining:

Draft minutes of Community Liaison Meeting - 5 December 19 **(Circulate)**

Houghton le Spring 41 Club:

Invite to Burns Supper - 17 Jan 20 (circulated 10 Dec 19) **(Noted)**

Independent Methodist Church:

Invite to Carol Service - 22 Dec 19 (circulated 10 Dec 19) **(Noted)**

16) Date and Time of next meeting

Town Council resolved that the date and time of the next meeting would be 19.15 hrs on Monday 20 January 2020 at The Hetton Centre.

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