

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of meeting of Hetton Town Council held remotely on Monday 21 December 2020

Note: The meeting was audio and video recorded throughout.

Present

Cllrs R Coulson, J Defty, T Dodds, R Elvin, A Farrow, D Geddis, R Heron, M Hopper, K Pearson (Town Mayor), M Thornton (to Item 13), K Rowham, D Turner, S Waterston and C Willis.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of the Public (MoP) x 33
Press - Local Democracy Reporter

1) Apologies for absence

TC reported that he had received an apology for absence from Cllr J Green (work commitment). Town Council resolved to approve the apology received.

No apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Blackburn, Cllr A Liversidge, or Cllr D Liversidge.

Town Council resolved that these absences be recorded as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) A Rowan, Retained Education Functions Lead, Sunderland City Council

Mr Rowan attended in response to the letter sent from the Town Council to Leader and CX of SCC ahead of the Cabinet meeting held on 17 November 20 to discuss Hetton Nursery School.

Mr Rowan outlined the consultation and decision-making process and provided detailed responses to multiple questions put to him by Members and members of the public. Key issues raised included the school's historic, current and projected financial position; OFSTED rating and quality of provision; nos. on school roll and the differing requirements of local authority v private nursery provision.

Town Council resolved to thank Mr Rowan for his attendance; note his responses and request that he relay to Sunderland City Council the strong sentiment of the Town Council and local community of their combined opposition to the proposed closure of Hetton Nursery School.

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4) Public participation

MoP expressed his thanks to the Town Council for standing up for the local community.

5) Minutes

Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 16 November 2020.

6) Reports from Members

Cllr S Waterston:

Ongoing issue with indiscriminate parking by heavy vehicles on grass verges at Redhills, Pearson Estate, Hetton le Hole. Request SCC consider solution.

Request for installation of litter bin at Union Street, Hetton le Hole.

Seeks confirmation of timescale for resurfacing of road at Urwin Street to The Avenue, arising from damage caused during works at allotment site.

Reports that CCTV camera at entrance to Burn Lane was removed on 15 Dec. Member has been advised by SCC ASB team that it has removed as no ASB has taken place. Cllr seeks detailed rationale for the decision to remove this deterrent.

Parking issues at Hetton Lyons Industrial Estate - both sides.

Cllr J Defty:

Requests that double yellow lines be introduced on one side of Moorsley Road to counter parking problems regularly occurring.

Reports ongoing problems with indiscriminate parking on pavements at Regent Street (near carpet shop), Hetton le Hole.

Cllr M Hopper:

Reports regular fly-tipping at stables at Moorsley and at Peat Carr field. Requests that both sites are regularly monitored.

Cllr R Coulson:

Two roads in East Rainton closed simultaneously causing disruption - better co-ordination requested.

Left turn at Gillas Lane to A182 still closed following completion of works at junction of Burn Hotel.

Cllr T Dodds:

Concurs with Cllr Defty re problems at Regent Street, Hetton le Hole.

7) Sunderland City Councillor(s) - Hetton and Copt Hill wards

TC reported that City Councillors representing the Hetton and Copt Hill wards had been invited to the meeting. There were no City Councillors present.

Signed:

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8) Update from Town Clerk

TC reported that he had requested the attendance of Northumbria PCC at this meeting, however she was unable to attend due to annual leave.

TC had also contacted the office of Robert Jenrick MP to establish his availability into 2021, but had not heard back.

TC informed Members that there remain some issues with comments reaching the FB page. To manage user expectations, he had amended the "pinned" post to advise that comments were not monitored or able to be responded to. However, the TC email address was included as an alternative method of contact.

TC reported that feedback received from SCC to issues raised by Members at Oct and Nov meetings had been circulated.

He added that he had been unable, to date to make progress with SCC in improving feedback to issues raised outside formal meetings. A request for further discussion on the topic had now been raised with the Customer Service team.

9) Financial report

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

Income:

Eppleton Quarry Products (community donation grant) £5000.00

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (December 20 - incl. additional hrs worked Nov 20) £1173.65

HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities) £542.53

NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions) DD £79.39

Sub-total: £1795.57

Town Clerk expenditure:

Zoom Video Communications (charge for Standard Pro monthly subscription) £14.39

Wilko (1 x 50pk DL envelopes) £1.00

Tesco Extra (2 x 5 pack pocket wallets, 1 x 50 pack punch wallets) £6.25

Sub-total: £21.64

Other expenditure:

Konica Minolta (copy and print costs Aug - Nov 20) £9.32

Konica Minolta (Biz HubC308 rental Nov 20 - Feb 21) £132.77

DC Services Ltd (quarterly website maintenance fee Dec 20 - Feb 21) £108.00

EE (invoice 4 Dec 20) DD £18.00

Sub-total: £268.09

Community Aid at Christmas donations (approved at 16 November 20 meeting):

Hetton New Dawn £500.00

Apostolic Church £500.00

Easington Lane Community Access Point £500.00

East Rainton Community Group £500.00

Sub-total: £2000.00

Total expenditure: £4085.30

Barclays Current account balance @ 15 Dec20: **£68713.37**

Anticipated current account balance if all paid: **£64628.07**

Barclays Reserve account balance @ 15 Dec 20: **£28401.25**

Town Mayor fund:

Income: Nil

Expenditure: Nil

Co-op Bank balance @ 15 Dec 20: £1286.20

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10) Annual Governance & Accountability return 2019-2020

TC referred to the previously circulated "Completion of Audit" letter received from Mazar's (external auditor).

TC reported that there were two minor issues highlighted and that for 19-20 there was not an "Issues Arising" report.

Town Council resolved to note the content of the "Completion of Audit" letter and thanked TC for his work on the AGAR 19-20.

TC expressed his thanks to internal auditor for her invaluable assistance.

11) Flagpoles at Easington Lane War Memorial

TC reminded Council of previous discussions for the installation of 2 x flagpoles at Easington Lane, and sought approval for budget allocation.

Town Council resolved to allocate the sum of £700.00 gross (subject to new quote) for the purchase of two x flagpoles.

12) Application for Community Grant Award

TC introduced the item and confirmed that the application met the policy requirements in terms of provision of a signature, bank statement and constitution.

Cllrs D Geddis, R Heron, S Waterston and D Turner each declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Town Council resolved to approve the application received from Hetton Colliery Railway 200 for £500.00 as a contribution for a community sculpture.

13) Christmas in Hetton and district

TC reported that quotes for dressing and illuminating a tree in Hetton Mini Park had been received from Balfour Beatty and SCC Building division but there was a significant variance. Further enquiries revealed that the higher quote included an upgrade to the existing power supply, which was deemed unsafe. Both suppliers indicated that they would not be able to provide the necessary upgrade ahead of Christmas 2020.

A planned upgrade of lighting within the Mini Park in 2021 would instead include the necessary works.

Members discussed the quality of the lighting installed on Christmas trees at Hetton and East Rainton and questioned an assertion by the lighting contractor that both had been vandalised.

Town Council resolved that TC advise the contractor of its' dissatisfaction with tree lighting and request an appropriate reduction in cost.

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14) Coalfield Area Committee - 9 December 20

Cllr K Rowham provided a verbal report and highlighted topics discussed including housing, crime statistics and Neighbourhood Fund.

Town Council resolved:

To note Cllr Rowham's verbal report;

To request that Assistant Director of Housing, SCC attend a future meeting;

That discussions take place with Head Teacher, Hetton Nursery School re accessing Neighbourhood Fund monies potentially available from Coalfield Area Committee.

15) Hetton Town Trust

Cllr K Rowham informed Town Council that no meeting of the trustees had taken place for nine months. Cllr Rowham held the view that there was a lack of transparency around decision making as information was not being shared with trustees.

Town Council resolved that TC write to the Chairman of Hetton Town Trust with a request for his attendance at a future meeting to explain the decision-making processes at HTT in the absence of meetings of trustees.

16) Planning matters

a) Planning Position Statement from Pegasus Group re Application ref: 20/01360 /FUL - Cragdale Gardens

Following discussion, Town Council resolved that a separate meeting be held to develop a detailed response to the Planning Position Statement for subsequent submission to SCC.

b) Town Council considered the following planning applications received from SCC and resolved to take action as outlined below:

20/02110/FUL

Old Broomhill Post Office Houghton Road Hetton le Hole, DH5 9PT

Proposal: Replacement of detached garage. Applicant: Mrs Rachael Chapman

No comments or objections

20/01940/FUL

29 Greenbrook Drive, Houghton le Spring DH5 9RL

Proposal: Conversion of existing garage into habitable room with bay window and erection of a single storey extension to the rear. Applicant: Mr Mark Atkinson

No comments or objections

20/02237/FUL

9 Bradley Terrace, Easington Lane, DH5 0JY

Proposal: Extend existing dormers to front and rear at first floor. Applicant: ASJ Properties Ltd

No comments or objections

17) Larger Council's Forum - 19 November 20

Cllrs D Geddis and S Waterston reported that the meeting had focussed on "double taxation" and that on this occasion, the forum had not included items directly relevant to HTC.

Town Council resolved to note their feedback.

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18) General correspondence

Town Council resolved to take action as detailed below:

Sunderland Nursery School Head Teachers: Hetton Nursery School (circ. 21 Dec 20) **Noted**
Hetton Lyons Primary School and Balmoral Learning Trust: Hetton Nursery School (circ. 17 Dec 20) **Noted**

ELCAP: Acknowledgment of Christmas Aid donation. (circ. 10 Dec 20) **Noted**

Apostolic Church: Acknowledgment of Christmas Aid donation. (circ.10 Dec 20) **Noted**

East Rainton Community Group: Acknowledgment of Christmas Aid donation. (circ. 10 Dec 20) **Noted**

Email from MoP (circ. 21 Dec 20) **Noted**

19) Date and Time of next meeting

Town Council resolved that the next meeting would be at 19.15 hrs on Monday 18 January 2021 virtually or at The Hetton Centre - in line with prevailing Government guidance.

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Date: