

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of meeting held on Monday 22 July 2019 at The Hetton Centre

Note: The meeting was audio and video recorded throughout.

Present

Cllrs R Coulson, J Cunningham, R Elvin, A Farrow, D Geddis, K Pearson (Town Mayor), S Quigley, K Rowham, C Sinnott, M Thornton, D Turner and S Waterston.

In attendance

Graeme Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of the Public (MoP) x 1
Gladman Developments - 3 staff (Item 4 only)

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from or on behalf of Cllr J Blackburn (domestic commitment), Cllr J Defty (vacation), Cllr T Dodds (work commitment), Cllr J Green (work commitment), Cllr R Heron (holiday), Cllr M Hopper (holiday), Cllr A Liversidge (holiday), Cllr D Liversidge (holiday) and C Willis (family commitment).

Town Council resolved to approve the apologies received.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr D Turner declared an interest in Item 4 (Gladman Developments) and Item 10 (Planning applications).

Cllr M Thornton declared an interest in Item 10 (Planning applications).

3) Public participation

There were no matters raised.

4) Gladman Developments

Cllr D Turner left the meeting for the duration of this item.

Representatives from Gladman Developments delivered a presentation outlining proposals for a 250 homes residential development off North Road and sought informal feedback from the Town Council.

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4) Gladman Developments cont ...

Members took the opportunity to raise various queries and expressed a range of concerns including:

Validity of statistics included in the presentation; the ratio and distribution of affordable homes; cumulative effect of other developments in the area; traffic volume forecasts and increased pressure on aging road network; road safety; impact upon settlement breaks and green belt; increased pressure on already stretched health and education service provision.

Gladman Developments invited Town Council to submit any suggestions they would wish to see incorporated in the proposed development.

5) Minutes

a) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 17 June 2019.

b) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 24 June 2019.

6) Reports from Members

Cllr R Elvin:

Seeks an explanation from SCC for the delay in enforcing S106 condition for Persimmon to provide a play area at their development at rear of Fir Tree Lane.

Requests an update on previously submitted request for the conversion of loading area outside Tesco, Front Street Hetton to parking bays.

Seeks further information from Northumbria Police re use of DNA spray to identify quad and motorcycle users causing nuisance.

Cllr D Geddis:

Reports poor quality of road resurfacing of rear lane Market Street South, Hetton.

Concerned about unkempt condition of earmarked recreation area opposite Kingfisher Drive (Clarence Court development by Taylor Wimpey). Queries what progress is being made.

Town Council resolved that these matters be referred to the appropriate bodies.

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7) Update from Town Clerk

TC reported that Barclay's had provided written confirmation that new signatory arrangements were now in place.

Following a Member request made at June meeting that future reports arising from meetings of Hetton Town Trust be provided in written format, TC advised that for simplicity he had requested of HTT that copies of non confidential minutes be provided for circulation to Members. Unfortunately, the Chairman of HTT had declined the request.

TC advised that he had made direct contact with Head Teacher, Hetton Nursery School to raise the longstanding concerns of Members relating to overgrown trees and the effects on neighbouring footpaths and properties. She advised that she had previously been unaware of the issues, but was clear the school had no budget for work of the nature required, her financial priority being maintenance of teaching resources. She would however, request that the caretaker assess and fulfil any remedial works he may be able to undertake.

TC had raised with SCC the possibility of installing a community notice board at East Rainton. He had received a response from the Area Co-ordinator to advise that SCC would neither utilise nor fund such a facility.

TC reported that following liaison with SCC Customer Service Delivery Manager, revised email reporting arrangements had been introduced to aid feedback to Member and resident issues reported via Town Clerk.

TC advised that responses from SCC to queries raised at June 19 meeting had been received today and this had been emailed to Members. Printed copies were circulated at the meeting. The response had included an offer for an officer from the Anti Social Behaviour team to attend a future meeting. TC was asked to follow this up.

Gentoo had responded to concerns about the condition of the East Rainton Play Park and advised TC that remedial works were scheduled to commence w/c 22 July 19.

TC reported that Induction Training for new Members had been delivered on 17 July by Lesley Swinbank of the County Training Partnership. The session had been attended by five Members.

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8) Financial report

Town Council resolved to approve the setting up of a Direct Debit for future payments requested by Postage by Phone (Pitney Bowes) as notification has been received that cheque payments would no longer be accepted.

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

Income:

Eppleton Quarry Products (Grant for 19-20) £5000.00

Expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (July 19) £1019.91

HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities) £452.78

NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions) DD £63.73

Town Clerk re-imburement:

Wilko - protective cover and case for iPhone SE £5.75

Wilko - Stationery (punch pockets x 50 and paper clips) £2.00

Postage costs - "First class signed for" (AGAR to Mazars) £6.60

WH Smith (stapler) £3.99

Asda (2 x 500 A4 paper @ £2.85 each) £5.70

Sub-total: £24.04

A Simpson Financial Services (Internal audit 18-19) £220.00

EE (invoice 4 July 19) DD £31.57

Hetton Town Trust (Room hire charges - 17 June, 17 and 22 July) £82.50

Total: £334.07

Barclays Current account balance @ 18 July 19 **£35,720.95**

Anticipated current account balance if all paid: **£33,826.42**

Barclays Reserve account balance: **£28,351.47**

Town Mayor fund:

Income: Nil

Expenditure:

Caroline Taxis (payee S Hopps): Hetton - Sunderland on 6 and 25 June @£15.00/trip) £30.00

Co-op Bank balance @ 18 July 19: **£898.34**

Anticipated current account balance if paid: £868.34

9) August recess

TC introduced the previously circulated report and explained that it was necessary to seek approval for known or anticipated expenditure in August during recess. This approach would ensure that creditors were paid without delay and that salary and associated costs could be also be met when due.

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Signed:

Date:

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9) August recess cont ...

TC advised Members that he would provide an update at September meeting should it transpire that any variations arose.

Town Council resolved to approve the expenditure detailed in the report and replicated below:

Town Clerk net salary (August 19)	£1019.71
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£452.98
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £63.73
BNP Paribas (Rental of DM 60 franking machine)	£96.00
EE (invoice 4 August 19)	DD £31.57
Konica Minolta (Leasing charge)	£132.77
Total:	£1796.76
Town Mayor's Fund:	
Caroline Taxis (payee S Hopps): Hetton to Shildon and return on 5 July19	£76.00
Sunderland City Council (Civic event - 5 Sept 19 - 2 x donations @ £5.00)	£10.00

10) Planning applications

Cllr D Turner left the meeting for the full duration of this item.

Cllr M Thornton left the meeting during discussion re:
19/01055/FUL - 2 Stobbley Moor Farm, East Rainton: Single storey extension to side.
Town Council resolved that it had no objections comments or observations.

Cllr M Thornton rejoined the meeting.

19/00942/FUL 1 Whitehill Road, Easington Lane, DH5 0PA:
Change of use from open space to private garden.
TC had been advised by SCC that this application was invalid.
TC resolved to arrange a site visit should the application subsequently be validated.

19/00258/LP3 - Site of 23-34 Lorne Street, Easington Lane: Installation of artwork.
Town Council resolved that it had no objections comments or observations.

19/01022/FUL - Hetton Moor House Farm, Seymour Terrace, Easington Lane:
Demolition of derelict farmhouse and erection of new dwelling.
Town Council resolved that it had no objections comments or observations.

19/01045/FUL-36 Rowan Drive, Hetton le Hole, DH5 9LF: Erection of single storey extension.
Town Council resolved that it had no objections comments or observations.

19/01089/FUL - 27 Lambton Drive, Hetton le Hole, DH5 0EW: Single storey extension to front.
Town Council resolved that it had no objections comments or observations.

County Durham Plan - Submission for independent examination.
TC advised that the Plan was significant in scope and the documentation vast. There had been no apparent previous engagement with HTC on this matter. Town Council resolve that TC circulate the email received for individual Member information.

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11) Coalfields Area Committee

Cllr K Rowham introduced the previously circulated report which highlighted key aspects of the meeting discussion as they affected the Hetton Town Council area.

The Place Board had confirmed that an intelligence led Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) programme was to be developed across all wards. Cllr Rowham proposed that Hetton Town Council write to Sunderland City Council to request VAS in Colliery Lane, South Hetton Road, Moorsley Road and Elemore Lane.

TC was requested to refer locations of empty properties at Queen Elizabeth Drive, The Lawns and Teviot Street to SCC's Empty Property Team.

Town Council resolved to note the report and thank Cllr Rowham for her feedback.

12) Town Council community priorities

TC advised Members that he was giving initial thought to appropriate approaches for the Council to identify community priorities.

Cllr J Cunningham suggested that the Sunderland City Plan could provide a useful platform for a cohesive approach.

TC advised that he would convene a meeting of the Management and Policy Committee in due course to consider a way forward.

13) Communication methods

TC advised Members that in response to previous feedback, he was considering how best to utilise social media channels to enhance Council communications.

He reported that the website was functional and showed the required up to date information, but was not user friendly. Legal compliance required by recently published website accessibility guidelines would prompt a full review.

After general discussion, a clear view emerged that HTC should utilise Facebook for information provision, with appropriate controls included to manage user engagement.

TC undertook to report back to a future meeting.

14) Town Mayor update

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

Sunderland Civic Centre: Film screening "Passion for VAUX - Sunderland's lost brewery".

Shildon Town Council - Mayor's "at home" event.

Annual Miner's service at Hetton Methodist Church.

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15) General correspondence

Town Council resolved to receive correspondence and take action as detailed below:

Sunderland City Council:

Response from P Melia, CX re request for PayPoint facility. **(Further representation to be made to CX)**

County Durham Association of Local Councils:

Planning gain and Section 106 agreements. **(Noted)**

Guidance for Councillors on handling intimidation. **(TC to circulate to Members)**

Pledge to reduce single use plastics. **(Noted - TC to establish if SCC had a similar initiative)**

Larger Councils Forum meeting - 25 July 19 at Spennymoor TC. **(Cllr D Geddis to attend)**

Guidance for dealing with marking the death of a senior national figure. **(Noted)**

15) Date and Time of next meeting

Town Council resolved that the date and time of the next meeting would be:

Monday 16 September 2019, commencing 19.15 hrs at The Hetton Centre.

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Signed:

Date: