

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of meeting of Hetton Town Council held remotely on Monday 21 September 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 (from Item 4 part), M Hopper, Cllr A Liversidge (from Item 3), Cllr D Liversidge (from Item 3), K Pearson (Town Mayor), K Rowham, D Turner, S Waterston and C Willis.

TC note: Due to a technical issue, Cllr A Liversidge and Cllr D Liversidge were able to hear but not contribute to proceedings.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of the Public (MoP) x 5
Press - Local Democracy Reporter

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from or on behalf of Cllrs J Blackburn (attendance at another meeting), J Cunningham (attendance at another meeting), Cllr C Sinnott (unwell), and M Thornton (attendance at a City Council meeting).

Town Council resolved to approve the apologies received.
No apology for absence had been received from Cllr J Green and Council resolved that this be recorded as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Public participation

Town Council resolved that a period of up to 30 minutes be allowed for this item.

MoP raised concerns about the cost of the SCC Core Strategy and expressed a view that aspects relating to development sites had deviated from the documented position. This was in relation to the Cragdale Gardens site.

A Member commented that following a query made to SCC she had received a response which may assist in addressing some aspects, and offered to share this with TC for circulation to all Members.

MoP also queried the source of potential monies for the funding of additional school places.

Town Council resolved that the offer of information sharing be accepted and that TC write to SCC re MoP concerns.

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Signed:

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4) Minutes:

- a) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 20 July 2020.
- b) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 27 August 2020.
- c) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of HTC Planning & Development Committee held on 3 September 2020.
- d) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Events & Special Activities Committee held on 14 September 2020.
- e) TC requested the following amendments be considered:

Minutes -Item 4, para 5 on page 1 - "Hetton le Hole" to read "Hetton".
Standing Orders - D5 on Page 7 - reference to 7 days be changed to 3 days.

Subject to inclusion of the amendments outlined above, Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the meeting of HTC Management & Policy Committee held on 14 September 2020.

Town Council further resolved that when finalised, TC sends out a printed copy of the Standing Orders document by mail to all Members.

5) Reports from Members:

Cllr R Coulson:

Further request for 20 mph speed limit in North Street and South Street, East Rainton. Seeks confirmation of a date for introduction.
Concurs with Cllr Farrow request.

Cllr R Elvin:

Made a public apology to City Councillor Anne Lawson for a misunderstanding relating to a Facebook post suggesting financial mismanagement at HTC, and acknowledged that he had misinterpreted her comments.

Cllr A Farrow:

Seeks explanation of nature of exploratory works at Corrigan Terrace / Grange Farm, East Rainton.

Cllr S Waterston:

Requests that traffic calming measures be introduced at Valley View, Moorsley.
Requests meeting with SCC re traffic issues in Hetton and district.

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Item 5 cont ...

Seeks progress with request for work to overgrown trees at St Nicholas House, Hetton. (Reported x 4 to SCC - first on 25 06 20 - ref EVE 1638122).

Seeks progress with request for dog waste bin at Broomhill (reported to SCC on 28 07 20 ref 1674807).

Seeks SCC on approach to unadopted roads.

Cllr K Rowham:

Concerns re speeding - Elemore Lane

Expressed concerns re Unit 6, Hetton Lyons Industrial Estate - a large number of wooden pallets is stored - is this a fire safety issue?

Raised concerns re disbandment of Hetton, Houghton and Washington Sub-Committee and seeks details of rationale behind decision.

Can HTC Members and MoP's attend and speak to new Planning & Highways West Committee?

Cllr C Willis:

Requests introduction of traffic calming measures at Byers Street and Byers Square.

Reports 2 x unroadworthy caravans at 1 South Market Street, Hetton.

A tree has been set alight outside Eppleton Row (vicinity of no. 4). Can the charred remains please be cleared?

Cllr T Dodds:

Reports that land at Caroline Street, Hetton adjacent to McMurchie's Butcher is prone to fly-tipping. Can shrubs at this site be cleared? At 21 Sept - mattresses and other waste dumped at site.

Cllr M Hopper:

Further request for barriers to be installed urgently at Peat Carr Park to prevent motorcycle access.

Requests SCC consider provision of facilities for motorcyclists causing nuisance.

Cllr R Elvin:

Cited the importance of the HTC Town Charter with SCC and encouraged Members to exercise the agreement which allows HTC Members to address City Council Committees.

Again queried progress with S106 monies for the provision of a play park at Kingfisher Drive / Fir Tree development at Easington Lane.

Town Council resolved that TC refer the issues raised to relevant agencies.

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6) Town Clerk update

TC advised that he was continuing to liaise with SCC officers to understand the reasons for inconsistent feedback when local issues and concerns were reported.

TC reported that he had identified that third party comments had been made on the Council's Facebook page. He reminded Members that FB was intended only to act as an information dissemination tool for the Council.

TC had been unable to establish how the comments had been able to be made as he had taken steps upon set-up to disable that facility. TC would monitor the site.

Cllr R Elvin identified an apparent contradiction in the most recent feedback from SCC relating to parking arrangements at Tesco. TC undertook to seek clarification.

Cllr M Hopper expressed his disappointment at lack of responses from SCC and sought details of possible escalation routes. TC provided his understanding of the role of the Local Government Ombudsman and undertook to provide more information to Cllr Hopper.

Cllr R Elvin proposed, seconded by Cllr D Geddis that the Secretary of State for Local Government be invited to attend a future meeting of the Town Council to provide their view on the working relationship between local councils and principal authorities.

Following a request for a named vote, those voting in favour:

Cllrs R Coulson, J Defty, R Elvin, D Geddis, M Hopper, K Pearson, K Rowham, S Waterston and C Willis.

Those voting against:

Cllrs T Dodds, A Farrow, R Heron and D Turner.

The proposal was carried. Town Council resolved that the Secretary of State for Local Government be invited to attend a future meeting of the Town Council to provide their view on the working relationship between local councils and principal authorities.

Town Council resolved to note the Town Clerk's report.

7) CCTV in Hetton and district

TC advised that due to time constraints, he had been unable to produce a report on this topic in time for the meeting and suggested the item be deferred.

Town Council resolved to defer the agenda item.

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8) Financial report

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

Income:

Barclay's Business Premium Account Interest £3.93

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (September 20) £1437.87

HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities) £724.48

NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions) DD £107.46

Sub-total: £2269.81

Town Clerk expenditure:

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

Other expenditure:

A Simpson Financial Services (for Internal Audit Services) £230.00

EE (invoice 4 Sept 20) DD £18.00

DC Services Ltd (Annual renewal website maintenance - quarterly charge) £108.00

Sub Total: £356.00

Total: £2640.20

Barclays Current account balance @ 18 Sept 20: **£37293.00**

Anticipated current account balance if all paid: **£34652.80**

Barclays Reserve account balance @ 18 Sept 20: **£28,401.25**

Town Mayor fund:

Income: Nil

Expenditure: Nil

Co-op Bank balance @ 18Sept 20: £1286.20

9) Member email addresses

TC referred to the previously circulated sales quotation for the provision of gov.uk email addresses.

After discussion, Town Council resolved to defer this item pending further enquiries by TC relating to security aspects.

10) Committee membership

TC reported that he was in receipt of notification of changes to Committee membership following the passing earlier in the year of former Cllr S Quigley.

Updates are: Cllr R Elvin for Events & Special Activities Committee and Staff, Employment & Training Committee.

Cllr M Hopper for Planning & Development Committee.

Town Council resolved to note the update.

11) Website accessibility guidelines

TC introduced the item which had previously been raised at Management & Policy Committee on 14 September 20.

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Item 11 cont ...

TC reported that he had not had sufficient time in the intervening period to produce an action plan. TC sought Council approval to produce a position statement at the earliest opportunity.

Town Council resolved to approve the Town Clerk's proposed approach.

12) National Pay award 2020-21

TC advised that he had circulated information to Members on 3 September from National Association of Local Councils which confirmed the pay award.

Town Council resolved to note the position.

13) CDALC Larger Councils Forum

Cllr D Geddis reported that he and Cllr S Waterston had attended the event on July. He focussed on discussions around relationships between local councils and principal authorities and advised that fuller details would be included in the minutes of that meeting.

Town Council resolved to note the verbal report.

14) Planning matters:

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

20/01206/CLP

BARCLAYS 3 Front Street Hetton-le-Hole Houghton-le-Spring DH5 9NU

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for replacement windows, reinstatement of existing 2.4m blocked opening to form new entrance door on front elevation, reinstatement of existing 1.3m blocked opening to form window on side elevation and internal alterations.

Applicant: Lyons Financial Management

No comments or objections

20/01623/FUL:

22 Rydal Avenue Easington Lane Houghton-Le-Spring DH5 0PU Proposal: Single storey extension to front and erection of garage to the rear (Demolition of existing garage).

Applicant: Mr Paul Grocott

No comments or objections

15) General correspondence

Town Council resolved to take action as indicated below:

MoP 1 re nuisance at Elemore Golf Course **(TC to contact SCC)**

MoP 2 re covenant **(Noted)**

MoP 3 re covenant **(Noted)**

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Item 15 cont ...

MoP 4 re historic aspects of HTC operations(**Noted and TC to write to MoP**)

Rural Services Network re Market Towns Group (**HTC to join on FoC basis until 04/21**)

Post Office Shop re closure of operations(**Noted**)

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Autumn Training (**Noted**)

Armed Forces Covenant (**Noted**)

NALC re holding meetings (**Noted**)

Remembrance Day(**Noted and refer t E&SA Cmttee**)

16) Date and time of next meeting

19.15 hrs on Monday 19 October 2020 at The Hetton Centre or virtual - in line with Government advice.

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Signed:

Date: