

Hetton Town Council



**Minutes of the meeting of Management, Policy & Finance Committee held
on Thursday 17 June 2021
at ELCAP, Brickgarth, Easington Lane, DH5 0LE**

Present: Cllrs R Elvin, D Geddis, R Heron, K Pearson, S Reilly, I Scott, and S Waterston.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)

Cllr P Dowell, Cllr M Thornton (to end Item 4), Cllr C Willis (from Item 6)

Members of Public (MoP) x 5 (to end Item 4).

1) Election of Chairman

Town Mayor Cllr D Geddis presided over this item and sought nominations.

Cllr K Pearson proposed Cllr R Elvin, this was seconded by Cllr S Waterston. There were no other nominations and Cllr R Elvin was duly elected.

2) Apologies for absence

Committee resolved to recommend approval of an apology for absence received from Cllr T Dodds (work commitment).

3) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4) Public participation

Committee resolved to allocate a period of up to 20 minutes for this item.

A Member in attendance queried the levels of participation by Hetton Town Councillors in recent litter picking events organised by Sunderland City Council.

TC circulated to MoP's copies of the report produced to support agenda Item 7.

Committee then heard comments from MoP's and a Member relating to Item 7.

These included references to the timescale for reaching an outcome; clarification of Town Council decision making processes; and an offer of financial assistance and volunteer support.

5) Anti-litter campaign - Hetton and district

TC reported that the SCC officers had notified him that they were unable to attend. He added that he hoped they would be available for the June meeting of HTC.

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6) Community news magazine

The Chairman welcomed Lesley Palmer (LP), L&D Marketing to the meeting.

LP distributed sample copies of community magazines recently produced for town and parish councils in the region.

LP explained that costs were part funded by the generation of advertising revenue which L&D Marketing seek. She added that L&D worked with designers and distribution companies, and that editorial contributions would need to be generated by the Town Council.

Committee indicated a favourable reaction to developing a publication (including a digital version) and resolved to recommend that more information re production costs be obtained.

7) Flag Flying

TC introduced the previously circulated report and Members fully discussed the topic.

A proposal from Cllr R Heron, seconded by Cllr I Scott to obtain an additional flagpole for municipal use and for the existing site to carry alternative flags in the interim period was not carried.

Following a proposal from Cllr S Reilly, seconded by Cllr D Geddis, Committee resolved to recommend that:

An additional flagpole be purchased for wider municipal use, and located at a prominent site in Hetton le Hole (to be determined and subject to relevant permissions being granted);

Any flags to be flown at the new location must comply with prevailing Government guidelines, be self-funded and self-organised by volunteer groups;

and,

A request be made to Sunderland City Councillors for the Hetton Ward for the allocation of funding for the new flagpole to be made available from the Coalfield Area Committee.

Following a proposal from Cllr R Elvin, seconded by Cllr D Geddis, Committee resolved to recommend that:

At the existing site at Hetton Mini Park and proposed site at Easington Lane War Memorial, only the Union and Lest We Forget flags be flown and that appropriate protocols are followed for flying at half-mast.

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8) Co-operative Bank account

TC explained that a new signatory was required for the Co-op Bank account to replace Cllr D Geddis.

Committee resolved to recommend that Cllr K Pearson be nominated as the replacement signatory.

9) Sponsorship

Committee considered the request received from Hetton Lyons Cricket Club and resolved to recommend renewing sponsorship of an advertising board at a cost of £100 (plus VAT).

10) Rural Market Towns Group

Cllr R Elvin explained that he was the Council's representative on this body which had offered free, temporary membership. He advised that having participated in on-line meetings he considered that ongoing membership of the group was not relevant to the Town Council.

Committee resolved to recommend that membership of the group is not renewed at expiry.

11) Community Grant Award scheme

TC explained that the policy changes and amendments to the application form agreed at an earlier meeting of Council had not yet been actioned.

Pending completion, some applications had been received based upon the previous policy position and application process.

Committee resolved to recommend temporary dispensation for any applications, pending availability of revised scheme documentation.

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Signed:

Date: