

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of Management and Policy Committee held on Tuesday 10 December 2019 at The Hetton Centre

Present:

Cllrs T Dodds, R Elvin (Chairman), D Geddis, J Green, M Hopper, C Sinnott and S Waterston.

In attendance:

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC).
Councillor K Pearson.

1) Apologies for absence

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr J Cunningham (family commitment).
Committee resolved to approve the apology.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr C Sinnott declared an interest in Item 5 (relative working at N Power).
Committee took a view that this was not material and it would not be necessary for Cllr Sinnott to leave the meeting when Item 5 was discussed.

3) Public participation

Cllr K Pearson requested that consideration be given to the provision of a Christmas Tree for Hetton Downs for 2020.
At the suggestion of TC, Committee resolved that the request be considered at a future meeting of the Events and Special Activities Committee.

4) Community Priorities

TC provided an update on progress with priorities identified at 12 November meeting.

Facebook: TC had approached Sunderland Culture to take advantage of an earlier offer of 1:1 support. Date awaited. Cllr R Elvin emphasised the importance of developing a FB page at the earliest opportunity. Cllr T Dodds suggested that Springboard be contacted as a potential alternative training provider.

Hetton Mini Park: TC advised that SCC had confirmed their responsibility for the site and were seeking internal funding for repairs to lighting in 2020-2021. Committee expressed concerns on safety grounds that lighting in the park was inadequate, and resolved that TC write to SCC requesting an acceleration of the timescale for repairs.

1 of 3

Signed:

Date:

Management & Policy Committee 10 Dec 19

4) Community Priorities cont ...

TC highlighted that his recently established contact at SCC had listened to outline suggestions from HTC re improvements to the park, but more detailed information would be required to assess feasibility and cost implications.

Cllr S Waterston advised that there had been plans developed several years previously to improve the park, but she understood these had been unable to be progressed due to financial constraints.

Following discussion, Committee resolved that TC seek details of previous refurbishment plans, and that subject to their availability, Members of the Committee should meet informally at 1.30pm on Tuesday 17 December at Hetton Centre to review the plans and undertake a site visit.

Cllr C Sinnott suggested the involvement of the local history group. Cllr J Green added that improvements to the park initiated by the Town Council would assist the standing of the Council in the community.

War Memorial: SCC had confirmed their custodianship of the War Memorial. Committee resolved that TC write to SCC to request memorial cleaning and restoration of inlaid lettering. An inspection of the memorial would be included in the 17 December site visit.

Environmental improvements: TC advised that location details would be required. Cllr Elvin then sought suggestions from Members for locations for wildflower planting. Members combined initial suggestions included - Mini Park, Aged Miners Bungalows, Houghton Road, Princess Gardens, Broomhill, Hetton Lyons, Springwell Terrace, Robin Road, Big Park at East Rainton and site outside Tesco.

TC was requested to contact Gentoo and SCC to identify their ownership of areas of open space within HTC boundary.

CCTV: TC advised that location details would be required. Cllr Elvin then sought suggestions from Members for locations for CCTV. Members combined initial suggestions included Hetton Mini Park, Hetton Transport Interchange and area outside Tesco. A full discussion identified installation logistics, funding, monitoring and partnership working as aspects for further consideration. Committee resolved that Cllr M Hopper be asked to carry out an initial technical and logistical appraisal.

5) Npower potential job losses - Rainton Bridge site

TC advised that this agenda item was included following the recent announcement of significant job losses over the next two years at Npower, Rainton Bridge. The site was within the HTC boundary and Npower was a major employer in the area.

2 of 3

Signed:

Date:

Management & Policy Committee 10 Dec 19

5) Npower potential job losses - Rainton Bridge site cont ...

Committee considered how Town Council may be able to offer practical support including assistance to work-finder or similar schemes which may be established.

Committee resolved that as a first step, TC write to Npower and GMB trade union offering its' support and seeking suggestions on how it may be able to assist.

6) Meet the Funders event - National Lottery Heritage Fund

TC reported that he had been notified by Sunderland Culture of a free "Meet the Funders" event to be delivered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund on Wednesday 22 January 2020.

TC sought Committee approval to attend to gain introductory knowledge. He regarded this as relevant as the various initiatives being explored by Committee may require external funding to be sought.

Committee resolved that Town Clerk attend the session.

7) Date and time of next meeting

Committee resolved that the next meeting be held on Tuesday 14 January 2020 at 17.45 at The Hetton Centre.

GK 11 Dec 19

3 of 3

Signed:

Date: