

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the meeting of Hetton Town Council held remotely on 26 April 2021

Note: The meeting was audio and video recorded throughout

Present:

Councillors R Coulson, J Defty, T Dodds, R Elvin, D Geddis, R Heron, K Pearson (Town Mayor), K Rowham, M Thornton (excl. Item 16), S Waterston and C Willis (to Item 15)

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)

Members of the Public (MoP) x 7

1) Apologies for absence

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr D Turner (unwell). Town Council resolved to approve the apology.

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

Town Council resolved to record their absences as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr M Thornton declared an interest in Item 16-Planning matters.

3) Public participation

No items were raised by members of the public.

4) Minutes

Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 15 March 2021.

5) TC note: Due to a clerical oversight, there was no Item 5 included on the agenda.

6) Reports from Members

Cllr K Rowham:

Advised that she had queried with SCC the reason that HTC had not been notified of a planning application for a residential development at Ninelands, Houghton le Spring which bordered the Town Council area. SCC response awaited.

A similar situation had arisen with an application for a site in County Durham adjacent to the A690 border with HTC.

TC was asked to make enquiries with SCC and DCC.

Cllr J Defty:

Highlighted ongoing issues with parking contraventions in Regent Street, Hetton le Hole.

This had been raised with SCC with a request that "residents only" permits be considered.

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Cllr R Coulson:

Reported that he had received a complaint from a Gentoo tenant about long-term problems with central heating boiler. Cllr Coulson undertook to provide TC with more details for referral to Gentoo senior management.

Cllr S Waterston:

Reported that she had raised the following matters with SCC (via TC) and awaited responses:

Ongoing issues with parking at Hetton Lyons Industrial Estate including obstructions being caused during loading/deliveries at the premises of a builder's merchant.

Poor condition of a damaged chaldron (coal wagon) at former Elemore golf course.

Sought clarification re the granting of temporary A3 permission to 11 Front Street, after formal objections had previously been made by HTC to the application for a hot food takeaway.

Cllr D Geddis:

Again raised concerns about the poor condition of a cordoned off property at Richard Street, Hetton le Hole.

Seeks action by SCC to investigate the recent blocking up of a public right of way by the owner of Fox and Hounds PH.

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.

8) Update from Town Clerk

TC reported that due to continued delays on his part, there remained local issues to raise with SCC.

TC advised that insurance claim for the damaged bench seat had been settled in full and he awaited licence agreement details from SCC.

TC reported that the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 20-21 needed to be completed by end June 21. There were some changes to the process which he needed to fully research and understand.

9) Financial report

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

Income:

Sunderland City Council:

Precept 21-22 (1st instalment) £27495.50

Local Council Tax Support Grant 21-22 (1st instalment) £5922.50

Aviva (settlement of insurance claim) £1208.76

Hetton Local & Natural History Society (part return of grant fund award) £2.49

Total: £34629.25

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Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (April 21 - incl. additional hrs worked Mar)	£1262.33
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£ 458.86
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £88.86

Sub-total: £1810.05

Town Clerk expenditure:

Zoom Video Communications (charge for Standard Pro monthly subscription)	£14.39
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Sub-total: £14.39

Other expenditure:

Society of Local Council Clerks (Annual subscription for Town Clerk)	£185.00
EE (invoice 4 April 21)	DD £18.22
Co Durham Ass. of Local Councils (Finance training Feb 21)	£60.00
Sunderland City Council (removal and disposal of furniture)	£58.17
T & A Dixon Accountancy Services (Payroll service for 6 Oct 20 - 5 April 21)	£60.00

Sub-total: £381.39

Total: £2205.83

Barclays Current account balance @ 20 April 21:	£83112.65
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£80906.82
Barclays Reserve account balance @ 20 April 21:	£28402.67

Town Mayor fund:

Income: Nil

Expenditure:

Co-op Bank balance @ 20 April 21: Nil

Confirmation sought to transfer £1750.00 from Barclay's current account in line with agreed 21-22 budget.

10) Hetton Nursery School

TC explained that he had included this item as he had previously expected a meeting of School Organisation Committee of SCC Cabinet to be held on 8 April. This had not occurred and he had written to Retained Education Functions Lead ahead of this meeting for an update but had not received a response.

Cllr D Geddis advised that discussions were ongoing re the future of the school. Following a point of order raised by Cllr M Thornton relating to Declarations of Interest, Town Council noted that Cllr Geddis was a Governor of Hetton Primary School.

11) Appointment of Internal Auditor

Town Council resolved to appoint A Simpson Financial Services.

12) Installation of Flagpoles at Easington Lane War Memorial

Town Council resolved to apply to SCC for Section 50 Street Works licence at a fee of £601.00.

13) Campaign to Protect Rural England

Town Council resolved to take up organisational membership of CPRE at a cost of £36.00/year.

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14) Expiration of EE mobile phone contract

TC introduced the previously circulated report.

Town Council resolved to renew the contract with EE adopting the 24 months option at a cost of £10.00 /month (excl. VAT).

15) Former Hetton Lyons Boy's Club site

TC introduced the previously circulated report and supporting document.

Following full discussion, Town Council resolved to nominate the locations as "assets of community value" under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

16) Planning matters

Cllr M Thornton left the meeting for the duration of this item

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

21/00483/FUL

Land South of Redburn Row Redburn Row Houghton-le-Spring

Proposal: Development of 45no dwellings (Use Class C3), with associated carparking, landscaping and infrastructure.

Applicant: Adderstone Living Ltd

Objection to be submitted along similar lines to that from CPRE.

21/00507/DEM

Trackwork Limited Hetton Lyons Industrial Estate, Hetton-le-Hole, DH5 0RF

Proposal: Demolition of old engine shed

Applicant: Trackwork Ltd

Note the action taken by TC and his update, and await developments.

TC to contact Coalfield Area Committee to establish funding opportunities to safeguard the site.

Following an interjection by a member of the public which was deemed inappropriate, Town Council resolved, following a vote that the MoP be removed from the meeting by TC.

21/00115/FUL

At Gateway North East Elemore Lane Easington Lane.

Proposal: Erection of new boundary fencing and refurbishment and replacement of part of wall, installation of 2no. storage containers, 1no. bin store and free-standing timber framed canopy (Amended proposal 16.03.21)

Applicant: Gateway North East

No comments or objections.

21/00561/REM

Coal Bank Farm Hetton-le-Hole, DH5 0DX

Proposal: Reserved matters approval for appearance, layout, design and landscaping in relation to planning application 12/01125/OUT (Proposed residential development comprising 40 no. residential dwellings with associated landscaping and access.)

Applicant: Mr C Ford

Representation to be made to SCC re currency of original reports and assessments, and highlight requirements for additions to meet present day requirements.

21/00808/FUL

5 Fieldside East Rainton Houghton-Le-Spring DH5 9RP

Proposal: Erection of new bay window to front and pitched roof to existing flat roofed garage.

Applicant: Miss Christine Brown

No comments or objections.

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17) Hetton Lyons Country Park

Cllr D Geddis introduced this item following reports of issues threatening wildlife. After full discussion, Town Council resolved to invite a representative of Durham Wildlife Trust to a future meeting.

18) Hetton Town Trust

Cllr R Heron declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. Cllr K Rowham expressed her concerns about the governance, accountability and transparency of Hetton Town Trust (HTT). Town Council resolved that TC formally write to the Chairman, HTT outlining the range of concerns and seeking a resolution.

19) Arrangements for clearance of stored items

TC introduced the previously circulated report. After discussion, Town Council resolved that Cllr S Waterston and Cllr Heron work with TC to sift the items and determine those for disposal, distribution or otherwise.

20) Document retention

TC introduced the previously circulated report and explained the requirements. He added that the proposed approach was based upon templates provided by the Society of Local Council Clerks, which he had adapted for HTC use. They provided a starting point, but would need to be viewed as work in progress.

Town Council resolved to approve the strategy and retention schedule.

21) General correspondence

Town Council resolved to take action as detailed below:

Co Durham Association of Local Councils:

Good Councillors Guide to Cyber Security **Circulate to Members**
Completion of CiLCA - **Circulate to Members of Staffing Committee**
Purdah 2021 (circulated 12 April) - **Noted**
Training for 2020/21 AGAR with Mazars - external auditors **Noted**
Death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh **Noted**
DCC Commercial Services **Noted**
Councillor Induction Pack **Noted**
County Durham nominations NALC Star Council Awards 2021 **Circulate**

Sunderland City Council:

Notes of 21 March meeting of Coalfield Area VCS Network **Circulate**
Death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh **Noted**
Statement of Persons Nominated **Noted**
Email re Cllr C Rowntree (circulated 15 April) **Noted**

Parish Councils UK:

Re Universal Credit awareness. **Noted**

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Thirteen Group:

Re housing availability. **Circulate to local charities**

MoP 1 - request for ward maps and electorate details**Noted**

MoP 2 - progress with barriers at Peat Carr**Noted**

MoP 3 - Issue with alleyway at rear of Redwood Close**Noted**

MoP 4 - waste land at Hetton lakes south**Noted**

22) Meeting arrangements after 6 May 2021

TC reminded Members that the legislation which permitted remote meetings was due to expire on 6 May. There had however been a legal challenge and a decision from the High Court was expected at the end of April.

TC explained the complexities of the position and the difficulties presented to local councils.

After full discussion, Town Council resolved that;

TC seek a legal viewpoint from SCC;

The Annual Town Meeting scheduled for 10 May be postponed;

and that TC keep Members apprised of developments.

23) Date and Time of next meeting

19.15 hrs on Monday 17May 2021 virtually or at The Hetton Centre or another venue in line with prevailing Government guidance.

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Date: