

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of meeting held on

Monday 18 February 2019 at The Hetton Centre

Prior to formal commencement of the Meeting, Cllr K Pearson (Town Mayor) asked all present to observe a one minute silence as a mark of respect for the late Cllr V Costello and Cllr K Hepple.

Note: The meeting was audio and video recorded throughout.

Present

Cllrs J Blackburn, R Coulson, J Defty, R Elvin, D Geddis (Deputy Town Mayor), J Heron, R Heron, P Holt, C McGlinchey, K Pearson (Town Mayor), D Turner, S Waterston and C Willis.

In attendance

Graeme Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of the Public (MoP) x 4

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from or on behalf of Cllr M Adamson (family commitment), Cllr K Alcock (unwell), Cllr J Cunningham (university commitment), Cllr J Green (professional commitment) and Cllr D Wallace (ill health). Town Council resolved to approve the apologies received.

No apology for absence had been received from Cllr J Cummings and this was recorded as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Public participation

The following issues were raised:

Member of public (MoP)

General concern about lack of police presence in Hetton le Hole.

Misuse of disabled parking bays at Hetton Centre by non-blue badge holders.

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Signed:

Date:

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4) Minutes

- a)** Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 21 January 2019.
- b)** Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Events & Special Activities Committee held on 21 January 2019.

5) Reports from Members

Cllr P Holt:

New roundabout being installed as part of North Road housing development causing a "rat-run" through East Rainton. Seeks information for road closures and procedure for requesting "access only" in short term.

Cllr R Coulson:

Large pot hole developing at the entrance to Summer House Farm Estate from North Street, East Rainton. Requests inspection and repair.

Cllr S Waterston (on behalf of a local resident):

An industrial bin has recently been located outside of former Barclays Bank, Front Street. This is considered an eye-sore. Is the location an approved site? Also has concerns about the potential for unpleasant smells in warmer weather.

Requests that the loading bay outside 24 Front Street has restricted hours. This loading bay is used by Greggs at 17.00 each evening and this junction is extremely busy and considered a potential accident site. This junction needs to be as open as possible at busy times to ensure the flow of traffic. Requests increased monitoring by traffic wardens.

Congestion between 08.00 - 09.00 and 17.00 - 21.00 along Front Street, corner of Market Street, Eppleton Row and Caroline Street. This issue is significant and presents safety and access issues. Buses and emergency services vehicles struggle to traverse Market Street due to congestion.

Cllr S Waterston:

Requests enforcement action as double yellow lines are being disregarded outside Hetton Delight, Front Street - to prevent problems caused through parking on pavement.

Further request for introduction of double yellow lines at Shaftesbury Park (Lee Terrace and Age Concern hut). This issue also raised at 21 January meeting.

Allotments at Hetton Lyons Country Park are in poor condition. What action can be taken to improve?

Blasting from Eppleton Quarry not being notified in advance to local residents.

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5) Reports from Members cont ...

Cllr J Defty:

Further query re progress of remedial works to dry stone wall at Station Road (prev advised by SCC that repairs scheduled for Jan 19).

Cllr C Willis: Concerns expressed re lack of police presence.

Cllr J Heron: Concerns expressed re relaxation of six month custodial sentences.

Cllr P Holt: Suggested that a formal photograph of Town Council Members be taken.

Cllr D Geddis: Suggested investigations be made into the provision of suitable memorials for three recently passed councillors in recognition of service given.

6) Update from Town Clerk

Town Clerk (TC) reported that due to recent personnel changes at Sunderland City Council he had not received feedback to MoP and Member issues raised at the January meeting. However, this was expected within the week.

Following budget discussions at January meeting, TC was pleased to report that following a request to Hall Construction, confirmation had been received that £5000.00 grants would be made to Town Council for each of the financial years 18-19 and 19-20.

TC updated Town Council on the return of Declaration of Interests forms and reported that only two were awaited. TC thanked Members for their forbearance in what had become a protracted exercise.

TC additionally thanked Members for responding to his request for formal confirmation of their agreement to receive Agendas/Summons and other correspondence via email. TC added that he had noted the requests by some Members to additionally have printed copies of documents made available.

7) Financial report

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

Income:

Nil

Expenditure:

Hetton Lyons Jun. Cricket Club (grant approved at 21 Jan 19 meeting)	£500.00
Postage by Phone (re-establish account balance)	£30.47
BNP Paribas Leasing Solutions (franking machine rental Feb - May 19)	£96.00
DC Services (annual fee - web hosting and domain reg.)	£238.56
EE (invoice 4 Feb 19)	DD £30.80
Konica Minolta (Biz Hub 308 leasing fee 10 Feb - 9 May 19)	£132.77
Sunderland City Council (supply of 3 x Xmas trees @ £1026.00 each)	£3078.00
Town Clerk net salary (Feb 19)	£1029.28
HMRC (combined employer/employee liabilities)	£454.10
NEST Pension (combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £44.12

Total: £5634.10

Barclays Current account balance @14 Feb 19:

£7425.97

Anticipated current account balance if all paid:

£1791.87

Barclays Reserve account balance:

£28,323.22

Expenditure - Town Mayor allowance:

Nil

Co-op Bank balance:

£1352.84

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8) Banking arrangements

TC reported that he had been successful in escalating this matter to a Branch Manager at Barclay's who was now providing direct assistance.

TC reported that changes in Barclay's account signatory policy to a maximum of three would require a review of Council's requirements previously agreed at the September 2018 meeting. TC added that to become the Council's authorised contact with Barclay's, the bank had been clear that he too would need to be a signatory. TC stressed that he would not wish to routinely sign cheques and would not sign cheques in respect of his salary nor for any re-imbusement of expenditure personally incurred.

Accordingly, Town Council resolved that Barclay's Bank accounts signatories would be G Keedy (Town Clerk), Cllr K Pearson and Cllr P Holt. These to supersede those agreed at the September 2018 meeting of HTC.

9) Field House Community Fund Committee (CFC)

TC explained that the Committee had been established to make decisions on applications for grant funding arising from the Field House Community Fund. A request had been received for a Member nomination to the Committee.

Town Council resolved that Cllr P Holt be nominated.

10) Planning applications

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

18/02198/FUL: East Rainton Cricket Club, Durham Road. East Rainton, DH5 9QT
Proposal: Proposed new changing facility.
Application noted with no objections, comments or observations.

11) Town Mayor Fund Raising event update

TC introduced the item and referred to the previously circulated report.

In response to a query from Cllr D Geddis, Cllr Pearson confirmed that she had sought quotations from three potential catering suppliers.

Town Council resolved to note the content of the report and authorise Town Clerk, Town Mayor and Chairman of E&SA Committee to progress to finalisation.

12) In-term Councillor vacancies

TC reported that following the recent, sad passing of two Members, Sunderland City Council had advised that there was no requirement to fill the vacancies due to the full Council elections taking place in May 2019.

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13) General correspondence

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

Hargreaves Surface Mining:

Draft minutes of 23 January 2019 meeting of Community Liaison Committee - **(Circulate)**

National Association of Local Councils: LCR Magazine - Winter edition **(Noted and distributed)**

National Employment Savings Trust (NEST): Change in contribution rates wef 4/19
(Noted and payroll provider to be advised)

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Standards in Public Life - Local Government Ethical Standards **(Circulate)**

Mazars update on AGAR returns - 3 April 19 (FoC) **(TC to attend)**

Completion of end of year audit returns and Transparency Codes **(Noted)**

Commonwealth flag day - 11 March 19 **(Noted)**

Notification of Larger Councils Forum - 21 Feb 19 **(Cllr D Geddis to attend)**

Groundwork NE and Cumbria: offer of volunteers to paint notice board
(Noted - offer subsequently withdrawn)

Keep Britain Tidy: Great British Spring Clean

(TC to explore options for tie-in with suggested community litter pick)

MoP: various neighbourhood issues **(Items raised by Cllr Waterston under item 5)**

14) Date and time of next meeting

Town Council resolved that the date and time of the next meeting would be:
Monday 18 March 2019 commencing at 19.15 hrs in The Hetton Centre.

The meeting closed at 20.00 hrs

GK 11 March 19

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Signed:

Date: