

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of meeting held on

Monday 15 April 2019 at The Hetton Centre

Note: The meeting was audio and video recorded throughout.

Prior to formal commencement of the meeting, Cllr Kathleen Pearson (Town Mayor) thanked those Members who were not seeking re-election for their past service, in some cases over many years. Thanks for their service were also given to those currently serving Members who would be contesting the forthcoming elections.

In response, long serving and retiring Cllr Juliana Heron stated that it had been a privilege to serve Hetton Town Council and the community alongside colleagues. She cited Cllr David Wallace in particular for his fundraising achievements' during his terms as Town Mayor.

Present

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

In attendance

Graeme Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)

Members of the Public (MoP) x 12

1) Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence had been received from or on behalf of Cllr K Alcock (ill health), Cllr J Green (work commitment), Cllr P Holt (work commitment), Cllr D Wallace (ill health) and Cllr C Willis (work commitment). Town Council resolved to approve the apologies received.

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

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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3) Public participation

The following issues were raised:

MoP: Caroline Street - contents of wheeled bins being decanted onto street from nos. 9 and 36. Mattress dumped in street.

White transit van observed regularly arriving in street in early hours and throwing rubbish into rear yards, ahead of fly-tipping into street.

Suspected drug dealing taking place at properties in street.

MoP: Concerns about Biffa Waste proposal for Houghton Quarry.

MoP: Former Fox and Hounds pub, Bog Row, Hetton is in a dilapidated condition. What can be done to rectify?

MoP: Additional litter bins requested in East Rainton - ie. near Post Office and at Traveller's Rest bus stop (20/ 20A).

MoP: Independent traffic survey requested in light of new residential developments in Hetton le Hole.

MoP: Hetton Lyons Country Park - "Scooters, motorcycles and quad bikes prohibited" signs required at main entrance (ie. main road to football site).

MoP: Hetton Lyons Country Park - additional dog waste bins required.

MoP: Bunting requested in Hetton Town Centre (along similar lines to that in Newbottle Street, Houghton). Also requests that flower boxes in Front street, Hetton be tidied.

Town Council resolved that these matters be referred to Sunderland City Council.

4) Minutes

a) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 18 March 2019.

b) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on Tuesday 9 April 2019.

5) Reports from Members

Cllr J Heron:

Request that missing "No dogs allowed" sign be replaced at St. George's Park, Church Road.

Cllr R Coulson:

Playground areas in East Rainton at: Earls Green and Quarry House Lane require safety inspection and renovation.

Cllr R Elvin:

Concerns expressed re speeding in Lyons Avenue, Easington Lane. Street is being used as a "rat run" to avoid Four Lane Ends. Speed restrictions were expected to be introduced as part of a wider "roll-out". When will these be introduced?

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5) Reports from Members cont ...

Cllr J Defty:

A range of landlord issues related to the upkeep of their properties and the need to be responsible for their tenants. Areas highlighted are Claude Street, Derwent Street, Wear Street and Fairy Street.

Cllr Waterston:

Metal fencing at rear of All Saints Drive is split and jagged. This matter previously reported but is currently held together with cable ties. More effective and permanent repair is required asap.

Query re whether or not Claude Street is adopted highway?

New request - dog dirt bin required near Wade's Memorials on right hand side on Broom Hill, Hetton le Hole.

Cllr D Geddis:

Request for additional traffic calming measures in Kingfisher Drive, Easington Lane (from Murton Lane R-a-B towards Bett Homes development (leading to Neal Street).

Query if Kingfisher Drive is adopted Highway? If so, request for several dog waste bins at various sites throughout development.

Problems with quad bike issues in Hetton centre, Hetton Lyons Country Park, Hetton Park and Easington Lane (fields at rear of EL cemetery).

Former Persimmon's compound in Kingfisher Drive is now being used as a dumping ground. This is unsightly. Cllr requests site is cleared/tidied.

Concerns over drug dealing and anti social behaviour in Hetton.

Cllr R Elvin:

Queries progress with S106 monies allocated for the development of a play park in Kingfisher Drive, Easington Lane.

Town Council resolved that these matters be referred to Sunderland City Council.

6) Update from Town Clerk

TC reported that he had received feedback from SCC re MoP and Member issues raised at 18 March meeting of HTC. A printed copy was distributed to Members.

Contact had been made with Northumbria Police who confirmed their willingness to attend a future meeting.

TC confirmed that following a query raised at 18 March meeting about an outstanding payment to SCC and a request for an explanation, he had mailed all Members on 23 March with further details and background.

TC advised that formal notification had been received from Barclay's that Council's required changes to signatories had been implemented.

He added that similar notification had been received from Co-op Bank and reported that the process had taken three months.

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6) Update from Town Clerk

TC reported that he had met with a representative of the Town Council's web site supplier and discussed improvements possible within the current contractual arrangement. these would be progressed in due course.

7) Financial report

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

Income:

HMRC VAT refund (Q4 - 17/18) £1300.85

Expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (Apr 19) £ 1019.91
HMRC (combined employer/employee liabilities) £ 452.78
NEST Pension (combined employer/employee contributions) DD £72.13
EE (invoice 4 April 19) DD £31.57
T & A Dixon Accountancy Services (Payroll & pension prep 8/18- 4/19) £100.00

Total: £1676.39

Barclays Current account balance @ 10 Apr 19: **£6472.93**

Anticipated current account balance if all paid: **£4796.54**

Barclays Reserve account balance: **£28337.34**

Town Mayor fund:

Income:

Fundraising event proceeds £722.50
MS Trust donation £12.00

Total income: £734.50

Expenditure

Sudeli (caterer - Town Mayor's event) £328.50
Help for Heroes (equal share - charity event proceeds) £361.25
MS Trust (equal share - charity event proceeds) £361.25
MS Trust (direct donations) £12.00
Seaham Town Council (2 x tickets @ £12.00 each - Charity evening) £24.00

Total: £1087.00

Co-op Bank balance @ 10 Apr 19: **£1985.34**

Anticipated account balance if all paid: **£898.34**

8) Notice of Motion

As the proposer, Cllr R Heron introduced and spoke in support of the notice of motion.

"That Sunderland City Council be requested to explore scope for the introduction of in-person council tax payment facilities in Hetton Town Council area."

Cllr D Turner seconded the notice of motion and spoke in support.

Cllr Elvin wholeheartedly supported the notice of motion and raised queries about the effectiveness of the initial consultation and levels of engagement.

After discussion, Town Council resolved unanimously to support the Notice of Motion and remit to Sunderland City Council.

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Signed:

Date:

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9) Annual Town Meeting

TC explained the requirement under the Local Government Act 1972 to convene the Annual Parish Meeting of electors between 1 March - 1 June.

Town Council resolved that the Town Mayor summon the meeting for 19.00hrs on Monday 13 May 2019 at the Hetton Centre.

10) Town Mayor's Fundraising Event 23 March

TC introduced the previously circulated report.

Town Council resolved to receive the report and note the success of the event.

11) Planning applications

Town Council considered the planning applications outlined below:

19/00332/FUL

Land Adjacent 30 Wear Street Hetton-le-Hole. Proposal: Erection of dwelling house.
Town Council resolved that it had no objections, comments or observations.

19/00102/MAV

Biffa Waste PLC Houghton Quarry Newbottle Street Houghton le-Spring DH4 4AU
Proposal: Variation of conditions.

In response to comments raised by Councillors Elvin and R Heron, Town Council resolved that TC seek further information and liaise with SCC for an extension to the consultation period.

12) General correspondence

Freedom of Information request: Councillors attendance at HTC meetings. **(Noted)**

Seafarers UK: Fly the Red Ensign - 3 September **(Noted)**

Hargreaves Surface Mining: Liaison Committee Report 27 March **(circulate)**

Durham Wildlife Trust: Spring Newsletter **(Noted)**

Sunderland City Council:

Traffic regulation order - Durham Road, East Rainton (40 mph speed limit) **(Noted- no comments)**

Lichfields Planning and Development: International Advanced Manufacturing Park 2
(TC to circulate information to Members)

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

NALC Star Council Awards **(Circulate)**

Various re AGAR 18-19 **(Noted)**

Campaign to Protect Rural England: NE Newsletter Spring 2019
(Noted - TC to request future editions electronically)

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13) July 2019 meeting

TC explained that due to a significant personal commitment he would be unable to attend the meeting scheduled for 15 July and requested the meeting be deferred to w/c 22 July 2019.

Town Council resolved to defer the meeting and request that TC identify an available date for w/c 22 July and report back.

14) Date and Time of next meeting

Town Council resolved that the date and time of the next meeting (Annual) would be: Monday 20 May 2019, commencing 19.15 hrs at The Hetton Centre.

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Signed:

Date: