

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of Annual Meeting held on Monday 20 May 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) welcomed newly elected Members and those re-elected.

Present

Councillors J Blackburn, R Coulson, J Cunningham, J Defty, T Dodds, R Elvin, A Farrow, D Geddis, J Green, R Heron, M Hopper, A Liversidge, D Liversidge, K Pearson, S Quigley, K Rowham, C Sinnott, M Thornton, D Turner, S Waterston and C Willis.

In attendance

Graeme Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of the Public (MoP) x 6

1) Election of Town Mayor

Cllr K Pearson invited nominations for the position of Town Mayor for 2019-2020. Cllr Elvin proposed Cllr K Pearson and the nomination was seconded by Cllr J Defty. There were no other nominations. Town Council resolved that Cllr K Pearson be appointed Town Mayor for 2019-2020.

2) Declaration of Office

Cllr Pearson then signed the acceptance of office, which was witnessed and signed by G Keedy, Town Clerk.

3) Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence as all Members were present.

4) Declarations of Interest

Cllr D Turner declared an interest in Item 18 (Planning Applications) in her capacity as a Member of the Development Control Sub Committee of Sunderland City Council.

5) Election of Deputy Town Mayor:

Nominations were invited for the position of Deputy Town Mayor for 2019-2020. Cllr C Sinnott proposed Cllr R Heron and the nomination was seconded by Cllr A Liversidge.

Cllr J Defty proposed Cllr D Geddis and the nomination was seconded by Cllr S Waterston.

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Signed:

Date:

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5) Election of Deputy Town Mayor cont ...

Following a vote by show of hands, Cllr D Geddis secured the nomination by 11 votes to 10.

Town Council resolved that Cllr D Geddis be appointed Deputy Town Mayor for 2019-2020.

6) Election to Committees:

Cllr R Elvin advised Town Council that the composition of each Committee was 8 Members, not 5 as indicated on the agenda - comprising 5 Members from combined UKIP and Independent groupings and 3 from Labour Group. This was acknowledged by Town Council.

Note: Town Clerk had been guided on this item by documentation pertaining to 18-19 municipal year.

Cllr R Elvin proposed nominations to Committees in turn as follows and these were seconded by Cllr J Defty.

Finance & Resources:

Cllrs R Coulson, R Elvin, J Green, M Hopper and K Pearson.

Management & Policy:

Cllrs R Elvin, D Geddis, J Green, M Hopper and S Waterston.

Planning and Development:

J Defty, D Geddis, S Quigley, K Rowham and S Waterston.

Staff Employment & Training:

Cllrs R Coulson, M Hopper, K Pearson, S Quigley and K Rowham.

Events & Activities:

Cllrs R Coulson, D Geddis, S Quigley, S Waterston and C Willis.

Town Council resolved to approve the appointments to Committees as outlined above.

Town Council further resolved that nominations from Labour Group be notified to Town Clerk by Thursday 23 May 2019.

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7) Appointments to outside bodies:

Nominations were sought for Town Council representation on outside bodies.

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC):

Cllr Elvin proposed Cllrs R Coulson, D Geddis and S Waterston, seconded by Cllr J Defty.

Town Council resolved to approve the appointments of Cllrs R Coulson, D Geddis and S Waterston.

CDALC Larger Councils Forum (1):

Cllr Elvin proposed Cllr D Geddis, seconded by Cllr Defty.

Town Council resolved to approve the appointment of Cllr D Geddis.

Hetton Town Trust (2):

Cllr R Elvin proposed Cllrs K Pearson and K Rowham, seconded by Cllr J Defty.

Cllr R Heron proposed Cllrs T Dodds and C Sinnott, seconded by Cllr D Turner.

Following a vote by show of hands, Cllrs Pearson and Rowham secured the nominations by 11 votes to 10.

Town Council resolved to approve the appointment of Cllrs Pearson and Rowham.

Sunderland City Council Standards Committee (2):

Cllr R Elvin proposed Cllrs R Elvin and S Quigley, seconded by Cllr K Rowham.

Town Council resolved to approve the appointment of Cllrs Elvin and Quigley.

Sunderland City Council Coalfields Area Committee (1):

Cllr R Elvin proposed Cllr K Rowham (Sub, S Waterston), seconded by Cllr D Geddis.

Town Council resolved to approve the appointment of Cllr K Rowham with Cllr S Waterston as substitute.

Co. Durham Community Foundation (1):

Cllr R Elvin proposed Cllr D Geddis, seconded by Cllr J Defty.

Town Council resolved to approve the appointment of Cllr Geddis.

Eppleton Quarry Liaison Committee (1):

Cllr R Elvin proposed Cllr C Willis, seconded by Cllr S Waterston.

Town Council resolved to approve the appointment of Cllr C Willis.

Field House Community Liaison Committee (1):

Cllr R Heron proposed Cllr A Farrow, seconded by Cllr J Cunningham.

Cllr R Elvin proposed Cllr M Hopper, seconded by Cllr D Geddis.

Following a vote by show of hands, Cllr M Hopper secured the nomination by 11 votes to 10.

Town Council resolved to approve the appointment of Cllr M Hopper.

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7) Appointments to outside bodies cont ...

Field House Community Fund Committee (1):

Cllr R Elvin proposed Cllr M Hopper, seconded by Cllr D Geddis.

Town Council resolved to approve the appointment of Cllr M Hopper.

8) Town Mayor Fund

TC advised that the approved budget for 19-20 included an amount of £1750.00 for the Town Mayor Fund. He clarified that this was not an amount paid directly to the Town Mayor. TC sought affirmation of the amount allocated for the municipal year 19-20 at £1750.00.

Town Council resolved to further note this amount.

9) Calendar of Meetings

TC referred to the previously circulated calendar outlining proposed meeting dates for 2019-2020.

He advised that there was flexibility for the Annual Meeting of Elector's (Annual Town Meeting) but this had to be held between 1 March and 1 June.

Town Council resolved to approve the calendar of meetings as tabled.

10) Councillor Code of Conduct

TC referred to the previously circulated Code of Conduct. He advised that this was recommended to replace the Code of Conduct currently adopted by Council.

TC reported that the current code was obsolete, and whilst he had been unable to definitively date it, the document had certainly been produced prior to the implementation of the Localism Act 2011 which required local councils to adopt a Code of Conduct.

TC added that the new document had been adapted from the Code of Conduct of Sunderland City Council (the principal authority).

Town Council resolved to approve and adopt the revised Code of Conduct with immediate effect.

11) Public participation

The following issue was raised:

Member of Public (MoP)

Queries current position and plans for fire damaged building in Richard Street, Hetton le Hole (opposite Victory Club).

Town Council resolved that this matter be referred to Sunderland City Council.

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12) Minutes

Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 15 April 2019.

13) Reports from Members

Cllrs R Coulson / A Farrow:

Expressed concerns over speeding in North Street and South Street, East Rainton. Speed Awareness signs previously in situ have been removed. Members request the introduction of a 20mph speed limit with legal action to be taken against offenders.

Cllr K Rowham:

Requests information on status and proposed action to be taken re boarded up house at The Lawns, Easington Lane and nearby derelict buildings.

Cllr requests meeting with SCC officers to discuss action to address problems with derelict buildings throughout Hetton Town Council area, in particular the option of compulsory purchase.

Cllr S Waterston:

Requests Hetton Nursery School management take action to tackle the problems caused by overgrown trees within their grounds.

Cllr A Farrow:

Requests speed limit throughout Rainton Green be reduced to 20mph.

Requests new community notice board to replace previously damaged and removed structure. Suggested site is Old Durham Road.

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

14) Update from Town Clerk

TC reported that following a request made at 15 April to for further information about the IAMP 2 consultation, more details were circulated on 18 April. No comments were subsequently received from Members.

TC advised that responses from SCC to queries raised at April meeting had been received today and this had been emailed to Members. Printed copies were circulated at the meeting and TC advised that some aspects required follow up by Members.

Following Town Council agreement to change the date of the July meeting to accommodate a personal commitment of Town Clerk, he advised that the meeting had now been arranged for Monday 22 July 2019.

TC advised that Northumbria Police had attended the Annual Town Meeting on 13 May.

Signed:

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15) Subscription renewals

TC sought the views of Town Council on any requirement to renew subscriptions to North East Regional Employers Organisation (NEREO) - £354.00 and the publication Clerks and Council's Direct - £252.00.

TC advised that his research showed membership of NEREO had been specifically to gain access to specialised training for Members at a time of tension within HTC, but the arranged session had been poorly attended.

He added that Clerks and Councils Direct was in his view predominantly an advertising vehicle for suppliers.

Town Council resolved not to renew the subscriptions but instead subscribe to 11 additional copies of the quarterly publication of the National Association of Local Councils at a cost of £148.50.

16) Financial report

Town Council resolved to approve the financial report and expenditure outlined below, taking into account the decision arising from agenda item 15 above:

Income:

Sunderland City Council (precept 19-20 - first instalment) £33296.00

Expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (May 19) £1019.91

HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities) £452.78

NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions) DD £72.13

* CommuniCorp (Clerks & Councils Direct 19-20) £252.00

* North East Regional Employer's Organisation (Advisory Service Fee 19-20) £354.00

County Durham Association of Local Councils (Subscription 19-20) £2003.39

Sunderland City Council (Recovery of final salary recharge payment - June 18) £2998.02

Society of Local Council Clerks (Membership fee 19-20) £175.00

BNP Paribas (Rental of DM 60 franking machine: 18 May-17 Aug 19) £96.00

Postage by Phone (postage fund top-up) £30.00

EE (invoice 4 May 19) DD £31.57

Konica Minolta (photocopying costs: 10 Feb-9 May 19) £16.88

Konica Minolta (Leasing charge: 10 May-9 Aug 19) £132.77

Total: £7634.45

Barclays Current account balance @ 16 May 19: **£38,069.37**

Anticipated current account balance if all paid: **£30,434.92**

Barclays Reserve account balance: **£28,337.34**

Town Mayor fund:

Income: Nil

Expenditure: Nil

Co-op Bank balance @ 16 May 19: **£898.34**

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Signed:

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17) Bank Signatories

TC explained that following a change in Member composition as a result of the 2 May elections, a replacement signatory was required for the Barclay's Bank accounts.

TC advised that although he was an account signatory, he regarded it as inappropriate to sign the cheque for his monthly salary and requested that Town Council note his position. TC sought express permission to sign the cheque for HMRC re tax and NI liabilities (which related directly to his salary) to avoid any potential for late payment fines. TC advised he would sign other cheques without concern.

Town Council resolved that Cllr D Geddis be the replacement signatory and approved the Town Clerk's approach to signing cheques in the circumstances outlined.

18) Planning applications

Cllr D Turner left the meeting for the duration of the discussion of this item.

TC advised that he had secured an extension to timescale for HTC comments to SCC in relation to Biffa Waste and Quarry House Lane applications.

19/00102/MAV

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

Town Council resolved to convene a meeting of Planning & Development Committee and request SCC officer attendance.

19/00557/FUL

Moguntia Food Ingredients UK Hetton Lyons Ind. Est. Hetton le Hole DH5 0RG
Proposal: Construction of two single storey extensions to an existing facility for purpose of improving manufacturing process; including packing area, circulation and plant area.

Town Council had no objections or comments.

19/00471/OUT

Land East Of Quarry House Lane, Quarry House Lane, East Rainton, DH5 9SE
Proposal: Outline Planning Application for the residential development of up to 104 dwellings.(Approval sought for means of access, all other matters reserved)

Town Council resolved to convene a meeting of Planning & Development Committee, request SCC officer attendance, and look to adopt the narrative produced by Cllr A Farrow as a basis for objection.

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18) Planning applications cont ...

19/00704/FUL

13 Doxford Terrace, Hetton-le-Hole, DH5 9PY Proposal: Erection of new front porch to replace existing.

Town Council had no objections or comments.

19) Notice of Motion re payment methods:

TC referred to the previously circulated response received from Sunderland City Council.

After discussion, Town Council resolved to refer this matter to CX, SCC with a request that the decision be reconsidered.

20) General correspondence:

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

Culture for Hetton: Invitation to unveiling of Mining Sculpture on 27 Apr 19 **Noted**

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Cllr Training session - 19 June in Yarm (£27.00 / delegate) **Noted**

VE Day 75 - 2020 **Noted**

VAT Training - 24 September in Peterlee (No charge) **Noted**

Larger Councils Forum meeting - 23 May in Shildon **Cllr Geddis to attend**

MS Trust: Thank you letter and certificate for funds raised. **Noted**

Help for Heroes: Thank you letter for funds raised. **Noted**

Hetton Town Trust:

Notification of introduction of post 19.00 hrs room hire charges from 1 June 19.

Cllr Blackburn to research historic arrangements

Hetton Home Care: 25th Anniversary event invite to Town Mayor - 30 May **Noted**

St John Ambulance: Re-dedication Service invite to Town Mayor - 2 June. **Noted**

Hargreaves Surface Mining:

Field House CLC Meeting 22 May 2019 **Cllr Hopper to attend**

21) Date and Time of next meeting:

Town Council resolved that the date and time of the next meeting would be 19.15 hrs on Monday 17 June 2019 at the Hetton Centre

The meeting closed at 20.25 hrs.