

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
SOUTH HETTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 20 MAY 2025**

Present: Councillors G Rodgers (Chair), S Mason, D Rodgers, S Elliott and L Haswell

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor G Rodgers be elected Chair for the ensuing year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor S Mason be elected Vice Chair for the ensuing year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Wass, Charters, Casson and Stephenson

4. OPEN FORUM

There were no residents present.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

6. POLICE REPORT

Consideration was given to the police report, which had previously been circulated to Members. There had been 45 calls, ASB – 5, Nuisance/Environmental – 1, Burglary – 0, Criminal Damage – 2, Vehicle – 0, Theft and handling – 1.

The next face to face PACT would be 22 May July at 6pm in the Robin Todd Centre.

The next Cuppa with a Copper will be held on Tuesday 11 June at East Durham Garden Centre between 10am and 11am.

Keep in the Know is a messenger platform used by the Police to pass out local messages via email on local topics.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

7. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

a) East Durham Area Association of Parish and Town Councils

RESOLVED that no representatives be appointed.

8. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 APRIL 2025, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

9. **MATTERS ARISING**

Inspector Teague had provided a response to queries raised:

He expressed his sincere sympathy to the individuals and families affected by the incidents. He fully understood the distress and concern the events had caused within the community, particularly in relation to the loss of a much-loved family pet and the involvement of children. He could relate to these situations and would certainly feel similar distress should they have happened to his family members.

He assured the council that each of the incidents raised was being fully investigated. Whilst he couldn't go into the detail of ongoing investigations, he confirmed that they were being taken seriously and would be robustly dealt with in line with legal processes and operational priorities. It was important to highlight that, although both incidents involve dogs, they were separate matters with distinct circumstances and were being treated as such. There was no indication of a wider issue that would suggest a broader risk to public safety. Nevertheless, the police were working to ensure that appropriate steps were taken in each case to safeguard the community and uphold confidence in their response.

The youths on the roof of the Station Hotel was also attended and investigated by using thermal cameras to check within as it was not safe to enter. DCC were contacted to ensure the building was safe and secure.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

10. **PLANNING MATTERS**

a) **Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to consider.

b) **Planning approvals**

DM/25/00598/TEL Prior notification for the installation of a 20m tower to host 6no. antennas, 2no. transmission dishes alongside ancillary works to the base and tower at Land To The South Of Unit 2B, South Hetton Industrial Estate, Bessemer Road, South Hetton

11. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Request for financial assistance – South Hetton Community Association

A request for financial assistance towards the cost of maintenance work on the dorma window in the centre was considered.

RESOLVED that the parish council were unable to assist on this occasion.

Easington Colliery – Under 13s

An enquiry had been received for the team to play on the pitch on a Saturday. Some of the boys on the team resided in the village. The Coach had spoken to the groundsmen and the coaches from the adults' team and there were no objections.

RESOLVED that agreement be given for the team to use the pitch on Saturdays.

12. **FINANCIAL POSITION – BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Clerk submitted a report setting out the bank reconciliation for April.

RESOLVED that the report be agreed and the information given be noted.

13. **BUDGET 2025/26**

The Clerk submitted a report setting out details of income and expenditure for 2025-26.

RESOLVED that the report be received and the information given be noted.

14. **ACCOUNTS**

RESOLVED that the following invoices for payment by the Clerk be endorsed.

DATE	PAYEE	CHEQUE NO/DD/T/ BACS	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
10/03/2025	Co-operative Bank	BACS	6.98	Bank Fees
12/03/2025	EE Ltd	DD	27.60	Mobile Phone
14/03/2025	Groundsman1	BACS	1,729.42	Salary - March
14/03/2025	Clerk	BACS	800.75	Salary - March
14/03/2025	Groundsman2	BACS	1,729.42	Salary - March
18/03/2025	E.on Next	DD	267.32	Electricity
18/03/2025	British Gas	DD	311.45	Gas - February
19/03/2025	Groundsman1	BACS	1,007.73	Salary Deductions - February
19/03/2025	Groundsman1	BACS	1,007.73	Salary Deductions - February
19/03/2025	Clerk	BACS	233.73	Salary Deductions - February
19/03/2025	Groundsman2	BACS	1,007.73	Salary Deductions - February
19/03/2025	Aitken's Sportsturf Ltd	TRANSFER	672.42	Nutri smart
19/03/2025	JRB Enterprise Ltd	TRANSFER	1,178.04	Dog Bags
19/03/2025	Cutting Edge Reel Services Ltd	TRANSFER	301.83	Machine Repairs
19/03/2025	Aitken's Sportsturf Ltd	TRANSFER	177.60	Liquid Seaweed
28/03/2025	Aitken's Sportsturf Ltd	TRANSFER	790.80	Nutri Smart Feed
28/03/2025	Premier Waste Recycling Ltd	TRANSFER	274.81	Waste disposal
28/03/2025	Co-operative Bank	DD	373.71	Trees/hose/cleaning supplies
04/04/2025	Co-operative Bank	BACS	30.00	Bank Fees
06/04/2025	Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	TRANSFER	243.60	Support and Maintenance
06/04/2025	South Hetton Community Ass	TRANSFER	3,099.95	Management Fee
06/04/2025	Premier Waste Recycling Ltd	TRANSFER	25.54	Commercial Waste
06/04/2025	Co Durham Ass Local Councils	TRANSFER	493.64	Subscription
06/04/2025	Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd	TRANSFER	1,046.40	Year End Close Down
07/04/2025	The Right Fuel Card Co Ltd	DD	70.57	Fuel
08/04/2025	Clerk	TRANSFER	186.43	Expenses - April

15. **REVIEW OF POLICIES**

- Standing Orders

The Clerk advised that a review of the Standing Orders would take place during the financial year.

- Financial Regulations

The Clerk advised that a review of the Standing Orders would take place during the financial year.

RESOLVED that the existing policies be endorsed.

16. **WELFARE MATTERS**

Playzone – the formal notice of intent has now been signed and the council had committed for the preliminary work.

Church – the church was in need of being cut and the groundsmen did not attend on Friday as advised.

Work in the park – there were some outstanding works that had been requested of the groundsmen in the park.

Grass cutter – one of the cutters was still waiting on parts for repair.

RESOLVED that the formal notice of intent for the Playzone be agreed.

17. **REPORTS**

a) **Durham County Council**

One of the County Councillors had been invited, however no response was received. The other County Councillor did not have any details on DCC website as yet to make contact. It was hoped contact could be made for the next meeting.

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 17 June 2025.