

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
SOUTH HETTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2025**

Present: Councillors G Rodgers, D Rodgers, S Mason, L Wass, S Elliott, P Cassan

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Stephenson, C Charters and L Haswell and County Councillor Rowney.

2. OPEN FORUM

There were none.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

4. POLICE REPORT

Consideration was given to the police report, which had previously been circulated to Members. There had been 25 calls, ASB – 0, Personal – 1, Nuisance/Environmental – 0, Burglary – 0, Criminal Damage – 1, Vehicle – 1, Theft and handling - 0.

The next cuppa with a copper will be held on Tuesday 8 July 2025 at East Durham Garden Centre between 10am and 11am.

The next face to face PACT meeting will be held on Thursday 17 June 2025 at The Robin Todd Centre between 6pm and 7pm.

Community Speedwatch was conducted on 9 June 2025 on Front Street. 66 vehicles passed and 1 received an advisory letter.

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.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2025 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

6. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

7. PLANNING MATTERS

a) Planning Applications

DM/25/01345/FPA The construction and installation of a Battery Energy Storage System, associated infrastructure, landscaping, fencing, access tracks, biodiversity net gain and underground cable corridor at land East Of Carrs Farm, South Hetton

A public meeting had been held on Tuesday 3 June 2025 to gather residents' views on the planning application. There were many objections from residents to the proposals. The application site fell within Hawthorn Parish Council, however it was on the border of South Hetton and would affect a large number of resident.

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that an objection be made on the following grounds:

Location

The proposed location was in the countryside and too close to residential properties. The development would be detrimental to their visual amenity.

Landscape

The proposed location was in the countryside on greenbelt land and would have a disastrous effect on the rural nature of the village.

Highways/Access

The local highway network was not sufficient to cope with the development. It was anticipated there would be 75 workers during the construction phase with a maximum of 12 minibuses coming to and from the site 6 days per week. The proposed access from the A182 was already dangerous with the speed limit changing from 60mph to 30mph and drivers did not anticipate the change and often were speeding through the village. Heavy wagons and minibuses turning into the site would only exacerbate the issue.

Environmental Impact

The development would significantly have an effect on the wildlife, deer, wildfowl and other wildlife habitats and the parish cannot understand why no impact assessment was deemed necessary.

Safety Risks

There were significant safety risks with the large facility holding thousands of lithium-ion batteries. If there were to be a fire at the facility this would cause chaos in the village. The recent fire at a substation near Heathrow airport caused no end of disruption for nearby businesses and residents. The fires were difficult to extinguish and the local fire crews may not be able to provide the specialised response required.

Noise

The noise and disturbance resulting from use of the development would have an adverse effect on residents who were located nearby. The cooling fans would be running 24 hours per day within close proximity to housing both north and south of the site.

b) Planning Approvals

DM/25/00564/FPA Extension to existing dwelling and construction of detached home office building to rear garden at The Hawthorns, Easington Road, South Hetton

DM/25/00838/TPO Fell 20 no. Ash trees due to dieback (TPO ED-1-2001) and replant variety of Wild Cherry, Hazel, Elm, Lime, Holly, Yew and Juniper At Land To The South East Of 9A Plantation Walk, South Hetton

8. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

9. FINANCIAL POSITION – BANK RECONCILIATION

The Clerk submitted a report setting out the bank reconciliation as at May 2025.

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

10. BUDGET 2024/25

The Clerk submitted a report setting out details of income and expenditure for 2024-25.

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

11. ACCOUNTS

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

DATE	PAYEE	CHEQUE NO/DD/T/ BACS	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
15/05/2025	Groundsman1	BACS	1,729.62	Salary - May
15/05/2025	Groundsman2	BACS	1,729.62	Salary - May
15/05/2025	Clerk	BACS	820.35	Salary - May
16/05/2025	British Gas	DD	131.19	Gas - April
19/05/2025	Groundsman1	BACS	1,075.37	Salary Deductions - April
19/05/2025	Groundsman2	BACS	1,075.37	Salary Deductions - April
19/05/2025	Clerk	BACS	296.25	Salary Deductions - April
21/05/2025	E.on Next	DD	231.28	Electric - April
25/05/2025	Turfcare Specialists Ltd	TRANSFER	273.60	Marking Paint
25/05/2025	Aitken's Sportsturf Ltd	TRANSFER	96.00	Fertiliser
02/06/2025	P Hutchinson & Sons	TRANSFER	18.00	Green Waste disposal
02/06/2025	Clerk	TRANSFER	178.72	Expenses - June
05/06/2025	The Right Fuel Card Co Ltd	DD	125.95	Fuel
08/06/2025	TJ's Heating Home Improvements	TRANSFER	230.00	Service Boiler/Water - Cricket
08/06/2025	Durham County Council	TRANSFER	2,145.58	Payroll SLA Charges
08/06/2025	Trade UK	TRANSFER	129.98	Boots for Groundsmen
09/06/2025	Co-operative Bank	BACS	6.98	Bank Fees

12. **WELFARE MATTERS**

The Clerk and Chair provided an update on a number of issues within the park.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

13. **REPORTS**

a) **Durham County Council**

Councillor Rowney had submitted his apologies.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 15 July 2025 at 7pm