

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
SOUTH HETTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2025**

Present: Councillors S Mason, P Casson, D Rodgers, C Charters, R Stephenson and S Elliott

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors L Wass, L Haswell and G Rodgers

2. OPEN FORUM

There was no public present.

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. The calls related to ASB – 2, Personal – 1, Nuisance/Environmental – 1, Burglary – 0, Criminal Damage – 0, Vehicle – 2, Theft and handling - 1.

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

The next face to face PACT meeting will be held on Thursday 20 November 2025 at the Robin Todd Centre between 6pm and 7pm.

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

Mobile safety camera enforcement during September where 90 drivers triggered the cameras. 2 drivers fell within the process level (court action), 4 drivers fell within the conditional offer level (fine and points), 84 drivers fell within the speed awareness course.

Councillor Charters advised that she attended the PACT meeting and there were no members of the public in attendance.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2025 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member were approved and signed by the Chair.

6. **MATTERS ARISING**

Station Hotel – the response was not sufficient. DCC should be able to do something about it.

7. **PLANNING MATTERS**

a) **Planning Applications**

DM/25/01835 Temporary Installation of a battery energy storage system along with ancillary infrastructure, acoustic and security fencing, access, landscaping provision and ecological enhancements at Caravan Storage, The Woodlands, South Hetton

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 brownfield 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 100m from housing down a track and not suitable for heavy wagons.

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 – None**

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

9. **FINANCIAL POSITION – BANK RECONCILIATION**

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

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

10. **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.

11. **ACCOUNTS**

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

DATE	PAYEE	CHEQUE NO/DD/T/B ACS	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
09/09/2025	Co-operative Bank	BACS	7.12	Bank Fees
12/09/2025	EE Ltd	DD	29.36	Mobile Phone
14/09/2025	Gillian Rodgers	TRANSFER	15.00	Keys cut
14/09/2025	Gillian Rodgers	TRANSFER	14.22	Scarifier Belt
15/09/2025	Groundsman1	BACS	1,775.46	Salary - September
15/09/2025	Clerk	BACS	845.56	Salary - September
15/09/2025	Groundsman 3	BACS	1,878.46	Salary - September
16/09/2025	British Gas	DD	31.51	Gas - August
17/09/2025	E.on Next	DD	257.95	Electricity - August
19/09/2025	Clerk	BACS	364.99	Salary Deductions - August
19/09/2025	Groundsman1	BACS	554.44	Sal Dedu - August overpayment
21/09/2025	South Hetton Cricket Club	TRANSFER	550.00	Contribution to toilet refurb
21/09/2025	Thomas Sherrif Ltd	TRANSFER	149.33	Repair of scarifier
24/09/2025	Anglian Water Business	DD	62.81	Water
26/09/2025	Co-operative Bank	DD	7.83	Fuel
05/10/2025	Clerk	TRANSFER	214.18	Expenses - October
05/10/2025	Turfcare Specialists Ltd	TRANSFER	1,521.36	Kettering/Marking Powder
05/10/2025	Neasham Nurseries Ltd	TRANSFER	1,359.46	Winter Plants
05/10/2025	Premier Waste Recycling Ltd	TRANSFER	129.19	Commercial Waste
05/10/2025	TJ's Heating Home Improvements	TRANSFER	215.00	repairs in cricket club
05/10/2025	P Hutchinson & Sons	TRANSFER	78.00	Green Waste Disposal
05/10/2025	Premier Waste Recycling Ltd	TRANSFER	175.61	Commercial Waste
07/10/2025	The Right Fuel Card Co Ltd	DD	141.86	Fuel
09/10/2025	Co-operative Bank	BACS	6.98	Bank Fees
10/10/2025	South Hetton Community Ass	TRANSFER	3,099.95	Management Fee

12. **WELFARE MATTERS**

Cricket Club Loft

Councillor Rodgers advised that the Cricket Club had been upgrading the premises and re-wiring. The building did not have any loft insulation. If this could be funded by the parish council, members of the club were willing to lay it.

Solar Panel funding could also be installed and quotations were being sought in order to apply for grant funding.

RESOLVED that the insulation be funded by the parish council.

13. **REPORTS**

a) **Durham County Council**

There was no report from County Councillors.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 18 November 2025 at 7pm