MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF

SOUTH HETTON PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 21 JULY 2026

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

Also Present: County Councillor Griffiths

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors L Haswell, R Stephenson, S Mason, P Casson and C Charters

2. **OPEN FORUM**

There was no public present.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor D Rodgers declared an interest in Item 8(i)

4. **POLICE REPORT**

Consideration was given to the police report, which had previously been circulated to Members. The calls related to ASB – 11, Personal – 2, Nuisance/Environmental – 9, Burglary – 0, Criminal Damage – 3, Vehicle – 1, Theft and handling - 0.

There had been a spate of ASB in South Hetton involving youths. A number of youths were being placed onto the ASB escalation process and some younger children had been warned in front of parents. Enquiries continued in relation to this and where needed action would be taken and housing associations made aware. Patrols would continue in the area. In addition, they were aware of a number of scrap van type vehicles in the area potentially Fly tipping. The Neighbourhood Policing Team have liaised with manager of Fly tipping Team at DCC and provided them with a number of vehicle registration numbers for them to check in relation to valid Waste Carrier Licences.

The next cuppa with a copper will be held on Tuesday 4 August 2026 at East Durham Garden Centre between 10am and 11am.

The next face to face PACT meeting will be held on Thursday 24 September 2026 at the Robin Todd Centre between 4pm and 5pm.

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 18 JUNE 2026** 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 – None

b) Planning Approvals - None

8. **CORRESPONDENCE**
(i) South Hetton Cricket Club Solar Panels – permission was sought to install solar panel and battery storage at the Club. The project had secured funding and this would reduce the energy costs, improve environmental sustainability and support the long term future of the club.

RESOLVED that permission be granted.

(ii) Holiday Sports Camp in the Park – permission was sought for holiday sports camps in the park. On offer was the provision of multi sport experiences for primary children. It was proposed to recruit from Murton, South Hetton and Hawthorn. The cost will be £120 per coach per day. Proposed date was October half term.

An activation grant from the Playzone would assist with funding the equipment required.

RESOLVED that permission be granted and the funding set aside for activities be authorised for use.

(iii) Request for Donation to represent Team England at the 2026 IMMAF World Championships – the request was from a resident of South Hetton who was fund raising so he could represent Team England in the Championships. The total cost of the trip was around £2000.

RESOLVED that £300 be donated.

9. **FINANCIAL POSITION – BANK RECONCILIATION**
The Clerk submitted a report setting out the bank reconciliation as at June 2026.

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

10. **BUDGET 2026/27**

The Clerk submitted a report setting out details of income and expenditure for 2026-27.

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
09/06/2026	Co-operative Bank	BACS	6.98	Bank Fees
12/06/2026	EE Ltd	DD	47.10	Mobile Phone
15/06/2026	Groundsman1	BACS	1,775.46	Salary - June
15/06/2026	Groundsman2	BACS	1,778.45	Salary - June
16/06/2026	British Gas	DD	87.11	Gas - May
17/06/2026	E.on Next	DD	226.74	Electricity - May
19/06/2026	Groundsman1	BACS	1,028.72	Salary Deductions - May
19/06/2026	Clerk	BACS	308.58	Salary Deductions - May
19/06/2026	Groundsman2	BACS	1,049.72	Salary Deductions - May
21/06/2026	Neasham Nurseries Ltd	TRANSFER	1,951.80	Plants
24/06/2026	Anglian Water Business	DD	62.49	Water
26/06/2026	Co-operative Bank	DD	117.65	Fuel/Subscription
29/06/2026	Durham County Council	TRANSFER	30.00	Allotment Site Rent
29/06/2026	JRB Enterprise Ltd	TRANSFER	1,210.92	Dog Bags
29/06/2026	Premier Waste Recycling Ltd	TRANSFER	221.51	Waste Disposal
02/07/2026	South Hetton Community Ass	TRANSFER	3,199.25	Management Fee
02/07/2026	Clerk	TRANSFER	235.70	Expenses - July
02/07/2026	P Hutchinson & Sons	TRANSFER	24.00	Green Waste Disposal
03/07/2026	Co-operative Bank	DD	30.00	Bank Fees
07/07/2026	The Right Fuel Card Co Ltd	DD	164.59	Fuel
09/07/2026	Co-operative Bank	DD	6.98	Bank Fees
11/07/2026	Premier Waste Recycling Ltd	TRANSFER	179.71	Commercial Waste

12. **WELFARE MATTERS**

Request for use of the football pitch
Shotton Colliery FC Reserves – requested use of the pitch on a Saturday afternoon and were looking for temporary accommodation until their home pitch changing rooms had been rebuilt.

RESOLVED the request was unable to be accommodated.

Wear United U15s requested use of the football pitch on a Sunday. Due to the disbandment of the South Hetton team this could be accommodated.

RESOLVED that the request be agreed.

13. **RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR/CASUAL VACANCY**

Councillor L Wass had submitted her resignation and there had been no response to the notice of election. The council could therefore move to co-option.

RESOLVED a notice to co-opt be advertised.

14. **PLAYZONE**

The contract for the playzone was ready to sign. A meeting had been held with relevant parties and the works would commence on Tuesday 1 September 2026.

RESOLVED that the contract be signed and the commencement date be noted.

15. **PUMP TRACK**

A meeting that had been arranged to discuss this further had been cancelled by DCC as there seemed to be some issue with the land what had been identified by the parish council. Once a decision has been made, they would advise us if this could proceed for further investigations.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

16. **REPORTS**

a) **Durham County Council** - None

17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 15 September 2026 at 7pm