

Minutes of a meeting of Amble Town Council held on Thursday 13th March 2014 at 6.30pm in the Council Meeting Room, Harbour Commissioners Building, The Quayside, Harbour Road, Amble.

PRESENT: Cllrs Mr Weir (Chair), Mr Arckless, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Dargue, Mrs Lewis, Miss Morrison, Mr Robinson, Mr Watson and the Clerk: Miss Brown.
Gazette reporter James Willoughby.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Hinson- Illness; the apologies were agreed.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes) None.

3. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

3.1: It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held 13th February 2014 were a true record.

4. CLERK'S REPORT:

The following report was noted for information.

4.1: Result of Central Ward Election; and estimated cost of election

4.2: Letter to Amble Christmas Lights re: Council decision against festive lighting on War Memorial

4.3: Meeting held with Locality Officer and Head of Service

4.4: Response to Working with Town/Parish Councils sent to Barry Rowland

4.5: Replacement plaque for VE Day memorial seat and new plaque for WW1 memorial seat ordered.

4.6: Display boards purchased.

4.7: Meeting with Ian Coe, Transport Officer, postponed as a decision has been made.

4.8: Issues with footpath on Leazes Street, flooding of sewer and unpleasant manhole reported to NCC

5. AGENDA ITEMS FROM CLERK'S REPORT inc.:

5.1: Result of Central Ward Election; and cost. The Clerk informed that the cost of the election was estimated to be approx. £4000. The members expressed their disappointment at the 13.9% turnout in the elections.

6. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

To receive the communications and report of the Chairman pertaining to Council Business

6.1: Meeting with Tesco Regional Corporate Affairs Officer: Tesco confirmed their commitment to Amble; they were looking into demolition costs.

6.2: Highlights Rural Tour was reported to have had an excellent attendance and was an excellent show.

6.3: Presentation of cheque to JCSC students for sponsored fundraiser for Children's Cancer.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

7.1: County Councillor Arckless presented his report which was circulated at the meeting. Copies are available upon request.

Cllr Mrs Lewis commented that it was heartening to see cross party working yet still disappointing that there was a lack of requested information coming through with basic services levels not being met in Amble. Cllr Arckless informed that contact should be made through the Locality Officer- Mr Rowland, the Executive Director of Place, who had stated that what works in one area may not necessarily work in another. Cllr Arckless noted that Amble Town Council was the only larger town

that did not buy into the enhanced services for grass cutting and planting. It was noted by the Clerk for information that Amble had agreed to a perennial planting rather than annual bedding.

7.2: County Councillor Watson gave a verbal report, stating that he had pointed out part 6 of the Charter consultation, relating to asset transfers, to the North Area Committee.

Cllr Watson had contacted the head of the Governors at JCSC to request that the hedge at the bus shelter on Acklington Road nearest to the South Avenue site be cut back to waste height for approx. 4m of length to improve visibility at the bus shelter.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES & REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS:

8.1: Cllr Weir attended a meeting regarding the Harbour Village which had been successful in receiving £1.8m funding; he praised the NCC Officers, Julia Aston and all involved in the project.

8.2: Cllr Weir attended an Area Committee meeting held at Choppington where there was a presentation on the Charter; Cllr Weir raised points of concern relating to part 6.

8.3: Cllr Miss Morrison attended the 'Delivering Quality Together' Conference on Northumberland Youth Work; the information from the conference would be available in the office. Cllr Arckless commented that he had been involved in discussions about Youth Work provision which was inconsistent across the County.

9. AGENDA ITEMS:

9.1: Consideration of quote for construction of seat in meeting room - It was RESOLVED to have the seat, which would double as additional storage space, constructed for the estimated price of under £600.

9.2: Review of social media account – It was RESOLVED to continue use of the social media accounts; which were proven to be expanding the reach of the Council.

9.3: Optimisation of Administration and Cllrs time – future proposal; the report (copy attached) was accepted for information and would be brought back to the April meeting.

9.4: NCC Response to Cllr Mrs Lewis regarding non recurring grant – the response was noted.

9.5: Consideration of Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment – It was RESOLVED to accept the amendments.

9.6: Consider change of masonry paint colour for Church Street bus shelter – As the present magnolia colour was a magnet to dirt, it was agreed to paint the bus shelter a light terracotta.

10. REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

10.1: It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 27th February 2014 were a true record.

11. REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE:

11.1: It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held 6th March 2014 were a true record.

11.2: To consider recommendations from the Amenities Committee

- Financial contribution towards works to erect a new bus shelter at the existing bus stop on Acklington Road; it was RESOLVED that the Council would contribute £100 towards the new bus shelter.
- Awards certificates for approval – It was RESOLVED to approve the design order of 500 printed awards certificates.
- Events calendar – It was RESOLVED to accept the dates of the events calendar.
- Letter to NCC regarding equality (Local Sustainable Transport Fund) – Whilst the grant was applied for under the previous County administration, it was agreed that the Chair with the Clerk send a strongly worded letter regarding the inequality across Northumberland.

12. REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE:

12.1: There was no planning report for the month of March

12.2: It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting held 18th February 2014 were a true record.

13. COMMUNICATIONS:

13.1: Northumberland Town & Parish Council Charter consultation – Members discussed the inequality across the County regarding Cemeteries, Parks and Playfields. It was RESOLVED that comments be returned to the Clerk by noon on 26th March with the Chair and Clerk delegated to respond.

13.2: Petition regarding the ‘Paddlers’ – It was noted that action was well underway by the Town Council, Cllr Arkless commented that NCC did not want to impose the area on the Town Council. Members expressed concern over the number of petitions stating that there is an issue of awareness. Cllr Mrs Lewis stated that there were modern health and safety issues which meant that the paddling pools would probably not be re-opened as pools but the Council were looking into an attractive recreation area for families to enjoy. It was noted that the feasibility study was essential documentation for any future grant funding.

13.3: Amble Development Trust – Welfare grass cutting – For information it was noted that the football pitch was required for youth sporting activities during the school Easter holidays. Cllr Mrs Dargue had initiated discussions with JSCS regarding their ability to cut the football pitch, and a decision was awaited regarding whether there would be any charge on this. The Town Council agreed that if required they would fund one cut of the pitch for use during the Easter holidays to the sum of £125. It was noted that longer term arrangements were required for the future. Cllr Mrs Lewis enquired if there was any news on the Section 106 agreement, for which it was agreed by NCC Committee members that the Town Council would be consulted. It was agreed to send a letter to the Chair of Northumberland County Council North Area Planning Committee asking for clarification on the status of the agreement and a date for consultation.

13.4: NCC - Notification of Consultation on Post-16 Provision for 2014-15 - as the deadline for this consultation was 19th May, it was agreed that any thoughts should be returned to the April meeting of the Town Council. Cllr Arkless noted that there were important issues to be considered including the sustainability and provision of schools.

13.5: NCC – Countywide Parking Consultation – The consultation detailed the introduction of free parking in County Council owned car parks. The Members had no comments

13.6: NCC – Amble – The Seafood Town – This was discussed under item 8.1.

14. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

The following information items were noted by the Council. They would be available in the Office for perusal.

14.1: Community Action Northumberland e-news February 2014

14.2: Northumberland Coast AONB – February 2014

14.3: Public Transport Newsletter

14.4: The Ambler – Issue 84

14.5: Clerks and Councils Direct - Issue 92

14.6: Local Councils Update – Issue 171

14.7: The Clerk Magazine – Vol.45

14.8: Campaign to Protect Rural England – Spring 2014

16. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

16.1 The next Meeting will be on **Thursday 10th April 2014 at approx. 6.30pm.** in the Town Council Meeting Room, The Quayside, Amble

It was RESOLVED that Under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public will be excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items on the Agenda due to their sensitive nature.

PRIVATE/PUBLIC

17. PRIVATE REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES & REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS:

17.1: To receive the report of Councillors who represent ATC on outside bodies

Cllr Dargue attended a meeting of LMAPS held on 6th March, she informed of issues with quad bikes around the beach road to Hauxley, it was noted that bikes had been seen along the new walkways at the allotments also.

A report had been received on Food banks following an increase in thefts from supermarkets of grocery goods. It was noted that there were several food banks in the town and that advice is given to those in critical need.

18: Update on staff absence – The Clerk informed that she was still pursuing avenues of temporary assistance.

19: To consider the Grave digging contract – negotiation of terms and consideration of equipment no longer required in-house – The Council accepted the conditions of the contract and it was RESOLVED that it be delegated to the Clerk with the Chair of the Council and Finance Committee to price the assets for sale with first refusal to the contractor.

20: To consider the East Cemetery maintenance – It was agreed to accept the estimate of £132 per cut and headstone strimming of the East Cemetery.

The meeting closed at 8.54pm