

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JANUARY 2015

At the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 8th January 2015 at 6.30pm in the Conference Room, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT: Cllrs C Weir (Chair), R Arckless, K Bennett, J Dargue, I Hinson, H Lewis, P Robinson and J Watson. The Clerk, Miss Brown.

J Willoughby – Northumberland Gazette
3 members of the public was present.

APOLOGIES: Cllr K Morrison – Other commitments. The apologies were agreed.

Actions

154. ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

155. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

Mr M Horn – NE65 0JH – Mr Horn circulated pictures of localised flooding and raised the following concerns:

Field flooding -during periods of bad weather water builds up in the field above the proposed development to form a large lake which then over-tops and then runs down the fence line through gardens and then into the road further down hill. One of the new houses is to be built exactly where the water builds up. The plan does say something would be done about surface run off but there is no solution proposed. Permission should be refused until this is changed.

Dangerous road junctions - during previous rejected applications a dangerous bend has been identified on Gloster Hill next to Windy Edge. This bend has been tinkered with in the new application but the problem remains. The plan also states that this part of the development will not have street lighting making pedestrians vulnerable. The planned access to most of the new properties is via a tight gap between 2 properties on Mariners View. The proposal does admit that this junction does not comply to basic requirements as it has inadequate line of sight and width. This junction is where the shared surface of Mariners View and the access to Mariners Court meet the main access road and only yards from the junction with the other section on Mariners View. This is an accident waiting to happen. In addition next to this, the new road junction has a choke point where the footpath is only 1.5m wide on one side and nothing on the other. This is the only access point for many pedestrians. The design is totally unsafe for pedestrians especially those with pushchairs and or young children. This in itself should be enough to reject the application.

Clerk✓

Clerk

Farm buildings plan - many attempts have been made to get planning permission for both new builds and conversions, all of which have been rejected. This application repeats many of the faults of previously rejected plans. This plan claims to be a conversion where possible but it is me belief that most if not all of the existing building foundation would not fit modern requirements so this plan should be considered as a new build.

Sewage capacity - it has been stated that there will be capacity in the existing system in Mariners View to take the extra flow however there is already an existing problem just below the Mariners View Gloster Hill junction where at times pressure in the system lifts manhole covers allowing raw sewage to flow out flooding the road making the road and foot path impassable.

Proximity to existing buildings - the design places new buildings too close the existing properties and proximity calculations do not allow for existing conservatories and proposed garages and bike sheds. In places the design puts a two storey building over looking an existing bungalow, this is made worse by the new building being at a higher level making privacy concern worse.

Wildlife - the application does not have a dedicated wildlife report. They do refer to the local bat population but mention little else. There are sparrow hawks nesting, barn owls roosting. Kestrels are common visitors and I have even seen a buzzard over the farm buildings. There are many ground nesting birds using the site including partridge, pheasant and mallard. The smaller birds are too many to mention. I have also recorded some rare visitors. The site is used by stoats, weasels, foxes, voles, shrews and a thriving population of hedgehogs.

Archaeology and heritage -The submission plays down the significance of the site. Previous report says there are possible Roman remains; this would link to previous Roman finds in the area. The report does not mention the find of a hoard during the development of Mariners View. I feel with improvements in modern techniques a full survey of the site is

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needed.

Need for housing –It has been said this housing is needed and government policy is to build. In Amble the property market is very slow and the average sale time of properties sold through local agents is around a year. The local development plan has said expansion should be to the south west of amble where permission for approx. 250 homes granted and many more planned. With this development and the others in the area Northumberland CC is fulfilling its obligations without developing this site.

Local services- the proposal in my opinion tries build up the quality of local services but fails to mention problems such as the lack of a NHS dentist taking new clients.

Arckless

Lack of jobs – where are these people going to work. The local industrial estate is becoming a ghost town and now that Tesco are in trouble we will not be getting a big supermarket and the jobs it brings.

156. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

156.1: The minutes of the meeting held 11th December 2014 were agreed as a true record.

157. CLERK'S REPORT:

RECOMMENDATION – That the Council notes the contents of the report and consider actions were necessary.

157.1: WW1 Centenary Commemorative Banners the hand over is still to be arranged.

Clerk

157.2: Meeting with NCC held 2nd December regarding Paddlers the notes of the meeting were circulated and accepted.

157.3: Notes of meeting with Neighbourhood Services held 10th December. The notes of the meeting were circulated and accepted.

157.4: The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

157.5: Local Government Pension Scheme – clarification from Government over pension scheme joining legal requirements – A report would be compiled for the February meeting.

Cllrs

157.6: 'In Memory of the Fallen' website – Cllrs Dargue and Lewis were considering options for the website with the Clerk.

157.7: NCC – 3 extra cuts – priority areas - The locations of priority areas had been circulated to Members out of meeting and agreed. They had been sent to Neighbourhood Services for a quotation for the service enhancements.

Clerk

157.8: Harbour Village Public Realms works – relocation of tree and seat – still pending

157.9: Commemorative seats – The seats were due to be delivered within the next few weeks.

157.10: Lindisfarne Road – traffic calming survey – this survey was still pending due to NCC priorities.

157.11: Digital Mapping demonstration held 6th November – Deferred to February meeting

Clerk

157.13: Hallbank Well – NCC had confirmed that this was within their ownership.

157.14: Clarification on non attendance of meetings – The Clerk informed of Local Government Act 1972, Section 85; which detailed that if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.

157.15: Concern of Cycle route on Leazes Street to Newbrough Street

157.16: Promotion of Coquet Enterprise Park and Amble Industrial Estate

158. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

The Mayor thanked all who attended the Christmas Reception and a total of £135 was raised for Amble Community Team.

159. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

159.1: County Councillor Arckless circulated his report for the month of January 2015. A copy is available upon request.

159.2: County Councillor Watson informed that the bus shelter on the residential side of Acklington Road was now in place.

160. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES & REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS: None.

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161. FINANCIAL REPORT:

161.1: The accounts for the month were agreed for payment.

161.2: Update on YTD and earmarked funds -

161.3: Bank Reconciliation

161.4: To consider the following requests for grant aid:

a. Amble Development Trust – funding towards a series of 6 workshops for Artograffi, the young journalists group. Cllrs Arckless and Watson both declared a personal interest as Members of the Trust's Management board. Whilst £900 was requested it was agreed, pursuant to Local Government Act 1972, Section 137, to donate £450 towards the running of workshops.

b. Alzheimer's Society – Consideration of donation towards service provision for the financial year 2015-16. It was agreed to defer this request to the financial year the funding was requested from.

c. East Amble Community Action Group – It was agreed that no donation would be granted on this occasion but the group should be encouraged to apply for funding for a specific project in the future.

d. Amble Coastal Rowing Club – Consideration of donation towards waterproof skiff cover – Cllr Weir declared a personal interest, his wife being a Member of the group. It was agreed, pursuant to Local Government Act 1972, Section 137, to donate an amount of £350.

e. Northumberland Theatre Company – Consideration of donation towards running costs – It was agreed not to support the theatre company on this occasion.

f. Amble Tavern FC – Consideration of funding towards new strip – It was agreed to donate an amount of £350 to the football club but not to be used for sponsorship. An update would be required on the spend.

g. Great North Air Ambulance – Consideration of donation towards running costs – As this request related to the 2015-16 financial year, this would be deferred to April.

h. The Friends of Alnmouth Station – Consideration of funding towards maintaining and extending displays – It was agreed to donate an amount of £100.

i. Tiny Woods Academy – Request for funding – It was agreed to donate an amount of £100.00.

j. Angel Tree Project – Christian Project to assist prisoner's families – As the funding request related to a Festive project which had already passed, no funding could be offered. A letter would be sent requesting asking them to reapply at an appropriate time if the project was to take place next year.

k. Alnwick Playhouse Trust - Request for support to fund core activities A donation to the amount of £200 was agreed in support of the cultural offering.

l. Coquet Shorebase Trust – Request for funding support in moving costs – As a request without supporting accounts, a donation of £100 was agreed.

162. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

162.1: The next meeting of the Amenities Committee would be held on Thursday 29th January 2015.

162.2: The notes and recommendations of the Events Sub Committee meeting held 26th November 2014 were agreed.

163: PLANNING COMMITTEE

163.1: Planning decisions made by the Principal Authority:

14/03507/FUL – 158 Percy Street, Amble – Proposed disabled access and bin store – No objections – Application granted.

14/03677/FUL - 5 Windsor Terrace - porch & bay window - No objections – Application permitted

163.2: Planning matters pending with the Principal Authority:

14/04050/FUL – Hope Farm – Indoor Riding Arena – No objections

14/03931/FUL - 5 Bisley Road - demolish conservatory add single storey lean-to - No objections

14/03886/FUL - Longstaffs Coaches Ltd Longstaffs Coaches Coquet Enterprise Park Amble - Proposed office building – No objections; welcome addition to local business.

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163.3: Planning applications to be considered by the Planning Committee(via a Planning meeting or circulation)

14/04029/FUL - Buildings West Of Gloster Hill Farmhouse, Gloster Hill, Amble - Full planning application for 44 dwellings, including 10 affordable homes

164. AGENDA ITEMS:

164.1: To consider draft budget 2015/16 – The precept was agreed to be an amount of £114850.

Clerk

164.2: To consider responsibility of Play area at the Paddlers – This was deferred to the Amenities Management Committee with clear recommendations to come back to the February Town Council.

Amenities

164.3: NCC Cemeteries – Quantifying the scale of the double charge – The Clerk read out the report from NCC. It was agreed to accept the offer which was a compromise.

Clerk

164.4: To consider news page – As the publication date of The Ambler was not until February, it was agreed to remove the ‘office move’ section and instead take out an advert detailing the move in premises a local weekly newspaper.

165. COMMUNICATIONS:

165.1: NCC~: iNorthumberland Public Consultation – Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated a public consultation report on the current and proposed coverage of broadband in Northumberland for the next 3 years. This report is for state aid purposes and reflects market data received from network operators who deliver or plan to deliver broadband in this period. NCC are seeking responses from businesses and residents, as well as network operators to confirm that coverage mapping and data is correct. The areas defined as not receiving a broadband service will then be included in a procurement process for the new broadband roll out programme which is due to start in Spring 2015. Members commented that this was a very positive scheme and Amble had been doing well out of it. Work should be encouraged to enable coverage in all areas.

165.2: NCC - Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy –The Full Draft Plan was currently in a period of consultation which would run until 11th February. It was agreed that Cllrs should return any comments to the Clerk by no later than 4pm on 3rd February. Cllrs Dargue and Weir with the Clerk should set a date for discussing and compiling a response between 3rd and 9th February.

165.3: NCC – Core Strategy Drop-in events – The Clerk circulated dates of drop-in events taking place throughout the month of January.

A relaxation of the standing orders was agreed.

165.4: NCC – Core Strategy workshops – As part of the current consultation on the Core Strategy, which takes place between 12 December 2014 and 11 February 2015, NCC have also arranged three themed workshops to enable greater debate on some of the key issues for the Core Strategy. The workshops are covering: Renewable energy; Housing and Green Belt; and the environment.

These sessions are in addition to the 28 drop-in sessions NCC are holding across Northumberland during January 2015. As booking is required those wishing to attend should inform the Clerk. Cllrs Lewis, Weir and the Clerk expressed an interest in attending the Housing and Greenbelt workshop.

Cllrs

165.5: The Pensions Regulator – Legal Duties – Under the Pensions Act 2008, every employer with staff in the UK must automatically enrol those who meet certain criteria into a workplace pension scheme and contribute towards it. The staging date for Amble Town Council is 1 January 2016. This is set in law and the Council must be prepared for this date. A contact must be nominated for the Council by 1st February at the latest. It was agreed the Clerk would be nominated as the contact.

Clerk

165.6: Banks Mining – Highborn Scoping Report – The scoping report for the Highborn site outlines how the site could be developed, operated and restored and the proposed approach to the planning application. The Clerk would forward the link to the Members for information. Details of community workshops were to be advertised in the near future.

Clerk

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166. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

The Council noted the following information items.

166.1: Community Action Northumberland – News December 2014

166.2: Marine Conservation Society – Winter 2014

166.3: The Ambler

167. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

167:1 The next Meeting will be on **Thursday 12th February 2015 at approx. 6.30pm.** in the Conference Room, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace.

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

PUBLIC/PRIVATE

168: MINUTES –

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held 11th December 2015 were agreed as a true record.

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

Cllr Dargue had attended a meeting of LMAPS – she would circulate the report to the Members. Cllr Dargue informed that the review of LMAPS was to be discussed at the coming North Area Committee meeting.

Dargue

170: CLERKS REPORT

RECOMMENDATION – That the Council notes the contents of the report and consider actions were necessary.

170.1: Appointment of Administration Assistant – The Clerk informed that the Administration Assistant was now in post.

170.2: Update on ‘Years to Remember’ production investigations and future WW1 commemorative events – Cllr Lewis informed that as St Cuthbert’s Church Hall was usable, that subject to the event organisers agreement that the venue was suitable the venue should be booked. Alternative options for venues were discussed should the venue be unsuitable.

Clerk

170.3: Concern of West Cemetery Footpath – This matter was still ongoing. The Clerk had spoken to the wheelchair user who was disappointed that no progress was evident to date. It was agreed to defer the matter to the Amenities Committee for a decision and in the meantime pursue advice from the NCC Equality Officer.

Amenities

170.4: S106 Agreement – It was agreed that a letter received from the Leader of the County Council should be circulated to the Members.

Clerk

170.5: Update on Office Premises – The Clerk informed that the lease had been received to be signed. Arrangements had been made for a removal firm to relocate all office furniture week commencing 19th January. It was agreed that a notice should be posted in the Local paper to state the reasons for the move and the dates the office would be closed, the date the new office would open and the new address of the Council.

Clerk

170.6: Surrender of Lease update – No further information had been received regarding the surrender of the lease held by the Council on behalf of a charitable third party.

170.7: Site appraisal of potential development site – pending.

171: Pay review – It was agreed to set up a working party to discuss the wages for all employees of Council and make recommendation to bring back to the February meeting. Cllrs Weir, Watson and Lewis agreed to be on the working party.

Cllrs

172: Delivering Differently – Amble had been approved by the NCC Executive to be a pilot town for Northumberland; this would then go before the Government for approval. The Town Council had provisionally agreed to be involved in this but much more detail was required. The meeting closed at 9.58pm

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