

## AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JANUARY 2016

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

### **PRESENT:**

Cllrs C Weir (Chair), K Cassidy, J Dargue, I Hinson, H Lewis, K Morrison, P Robinson and J Watson  
with the Clerk, Miss Brown

4 members of the public were present.

Actions

### **170. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Cllr Arckless had submitted his apologies being in attendance at another meeting on behalf of NCC. Members did not accept the apologies.

### **171. ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.**

### **172. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)**

Mr Forsyth of Gloster Hill Farm queried if the Council knew when the Gut was last cleared out. Flooding was occurring in inclement weather due to a culmination of surface water to the west of the road which was a flood plain.

He also queried where the water was feeding in through the riverside and whether this is creating a back flow. The Clerk would ask NCC's Flood and Coastal Erosion Management Team for a site visit. It was questioned whether the flaps of the outflow were working.

Mr Horn commented that the flow at the bottom of Gloster Hill was correct but what about the flow beyond this point. The Clerk would also make enquiries to Northumbrian Water. Mr Horn informed that Northumbrian Water have a license to pump sewage into the Coquet when the pump station is overwhelmed.

### **173. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL**

173.1: The minutes of the meeting held 10 December 2015 were agreed as a true record.

173.2: The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held 17 December 2015 were agreed as a true record.

### **174. CLERK'S REPORT:**

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

174.1: Parking & Traffic Regulation meeting date – The next meeting was due to be held in February.

174.2: Website costing update – This matter is ongoing

174.3: Pensions Auto Enrolment – Cllr Lewis proposed a 5% employer contribution rate. This was seconded by Cllr Watson and agreed.

174.4: War Memorial roof condition – The Clerk was pursuing quotation for the repairs to the roof. It was noted that the Clerk had delegated authority in the instance of 'business of an urgent nature' to spend up to £1000.

174.5: War Memorial internal flexi-glass installation – The Clerk was due to attend a meeting on site with a contractor to look at whether flexi-glass was required.

174.6: Clock digital regulation system and time change unit – Cllr Hinson queried whether there is a remote warning system available to notify when the Clock had switched to back up power. The Clerk would enquire whether this was possible

174.7: Clerk/Chair to meeting with JCSC Executive Headteacher – This meeting was due to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> January.

174.8: Highways and footpaths – The Clerk would query with Cllr Arckless when a meeting could be held to move this forward.

174.9: Update on Public Conveniences – Members agreed to query whether NCC would allow the TIC toilets to be opened/closed by a volunteer on Saturdays with the NCC operative carrying out a cleanse when closing on a Friday. Cllr Watson proposed that the Council consider paying to keep the toilets open over the winter period via an SLA or contract in future years, commenting that due to the growth prospects of the town the facilities should be kept open for the public and tourists. Members agreed in principle to a sum of £5000 in the budget to keep both sets of toilets open 7 days per week next winter should this be needed. The situation with the toilets for the next financial year was still unclear but the Council would enter into negotiations with NCC should they decide to make them seasonal only. The Clerk would enquire what the arrangements were for

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Easter.

174.10: To consider suggested Remembrance Day format and wreath laying order (copy circulated with the December Agenda) in comparison to the NCC order of Service – The Clerk would circulation both the NCC and ATC orders of service.

174.11: Consultation of Proposal to amalgamate James Calvert Spence College South Avenue and James Calvert Spence College Acklington Road – This item had been circulated to Members and it was agreed that there were no objections to the proposal.

174.12: Events Committee – Notes of meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015 the notes of this meeting had not yet been circulated.

174.13: Postponement of ARCH meeting due to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> January – Members agreed that a letter should be sent to ARCH regarding the harsh cutting back of the tree line at Coquet Enterprise Park, had this been done on the advice of a tree surgeon; were there any plans to cut back the remaining trees towards Albert Street.

### **175 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:**

The Chairman commented that he had travelled to Morpeth for the Town and Parish Council Liaison Working Group but had been unsuccessful in finding a parking space anywhere near the site so had not attended.

### **176 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

176.1: County Councillor Arkless' report was circulated. Cllr Lewis noted as an item of information that there were media reports which stated that NCC were considering housing refugees; she commented that with the cut backs to basic services and staff etc. she found it incredible that the Council consider housing the stated number of families at the speculated cost. Whilst she has sympathy for the refugees, she feels priority should be given to county residents. She would flag up to County Councillor Arkless that she would like the progress of this to be monitored.

176.2: County Councillor Watson reported that he had attended a poor site meeting at Gloster Hill in relation to the proposed development for 6 detached dwellings. The meeting did not cover all concerns. Based on present information County Councillor Watson planned on calling in this application.

Cllr Watson reported that there was an enforcement issue in progress regarding a fence that was falling onto a footpath in Gloster Park and that he has reported Acklington Road (next to the Welfare) due to its poor surfacing.

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

Cllr reports were noted for information. (Cllr Reports)

### **178. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

178.1: To consider the accounts for payment, and note receipts for information for the month of January and the YTD (**Finance**) The payment were agreed and receipts noted for information.

178.2: The bank reconciliation for the month of January was noted for information.

178.3: Consideration of requests for donations/grants (**Grants**)

- Choysez – Members agreed that they would not be supporting Choysez as they already support similar activities for local children via Amble Youth Project.

### **179. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:**

179.1: The next meeting of the Amenities Management Committee would take place at 6.00pm on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in the Town Council Office.

### **180: PLANNING COMMITTEE**

180.1: The report on planning decisions, planning matters pending and planning matters pending consideration during the month of December 2015 was received for information. (**Plan Apps Dec/Jan**)

### **181: AGENDA ITEMS:**

181.1 Draft budget 2016/17 (**Budget**) This was discussed and agreed with amendments subject to the Clerk finalising the Salaries & Pensions figures.

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181.2: Notes of Sodexo meeting and consideration of acceptance of seats. These were accepted for information. The two seats would be placed in the Memorial Gardens; to complement these and those there, the two remaining seats to commemorate the WW1 centenary would be purchased now. The two new seats would be 1918- 2018 and 1939-1945. The refurbished seats would be sited elsewhere.

181.3: Consideration of News page: Some amendments were to be made regarding the article on the toilets, the news page was agreed.

181.4: Planned meetings with local schools in lieu of Local Democracy Week as previously agreed – The Clerk would check the dates with the schools for confirmation. Cllrs Arckless, Cassidy, Dargue, Lewis and Weir were interested in attending and would meet to discuss content.

181.5: St. Cuthbert's Church Pews – Cllr Lewis proposed the Council approach the Church and ask if there are any spare pews that they are planning on disposing of as they could be used as way markers on the History Trail that we are looking at improving. Some had already been given to the Coastal rowing club by the Church, but they do have some surplus to requirements. If the Church was agreeable, a donation could be considered in exchange for them. This was seconded and agreed.

181.6: Consideration of becoming a Dementia Friendly Council – Members were agreeable to becoming a Dementia Friendly Council; the Clerk would request more information from Mrs Swanston and make arrangements regarding this.

### **182. COMMUNICATIONS:**

182.1: CAN - Community Action Award – A letter of congratulations has been sent

182.2: NCC – Animal Boarding Establishment Policy Consultation – Members had no comments on this consultation.

182.3: NCC – Winter Services Leaflet – This was noted for information.

### **183. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:**

The Council noted the information items.

183.1: NALC E:news Dec 2015

183.2: VCS Support Services Ebulletin - Issue 40

183.3: Northumberland Coast AONB – Coastal Views December Issue

183.4: NCC: AREA COMMITTEE SOUTH EAST - 13 JANUARY 2016

### **184. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

184.1 The next Meeting will be on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 6.00pm.** in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace.

**It was agreed 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.**

### **PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE**

**185. PRIVATE REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES & REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS (Cllr Reports Private)** – A report was expected relating to the recent Harbour Village meeting.

### **186: COMMUNICATIONS:**

186.1: Co-operative Funeralcare – Cemetery Concerns – The Clerk with the Chair of Council and Vice Chair of the Amenities Committee had met with the contractor and the Environmental Operative to discuss the issues raised; they had agreed recommended practices to alleviate the chance of future concerns. A meeting would be held with the Funeral Director on 21<sup>st</sup> January.

### **187: MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL**

187.1: The minutes of the meeting held 10 December 2015 (**TC Dec 2015 - PRIVATE**) were agreed as a true record.

187.2: The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held 17 December 2015 (**Ex TC Dec 15 - PRIVATE**) were agreed as a true record.

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### 188: CLERKS REPORT

RECOMMENDATION – That the Council noted the contents of the report and considered actions where necessary.

188.1: The sale of land at High Street - Members agreed with the red line boundary on the plan attached to the letter from the solicitor.

Members agreed that the western boundary should be maintained by the owners with specifications of stone or wooden fencing with planning regulations determining the maximum height.

Members agreed to the inclusion of a restrictive covenant that nothing other than a garage or outbuilding of single storey height may be erected on the land.

The Leylandii on the western boundary should also be removed as it is obscuring the splay of visibility to the Highway.

188.2: Infringement of Lease – The Clerk would pursue this and bring the advice of the solicitor to the next meeting.

188.3: CiLCA – The Clerk informed that she would be resubmitting several modules but was congratulated on her achievement so far.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm

DRAFT