

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2015

The Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 12th November 2015 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs C Weir (Chair), R Arckless, K Cassidy, J Dargue I Hinson, H Lewis, K Morrison, P Robinson, J Watson with the Clerk, Miss Brown
Inspector Truscott – Northumbria Police Force
PC Donnelly – Northumbria Police Force
J Willoughby – Northumberland Gazette
2 members of the public were present.

APOLOGIES: None.

Actions

122. ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

123. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

123.1: Inspector Truscott – Northumbria Police Force: Inspector Truscott informed that the Force were 2 weeks away from the results of a comprehensive spending review. The Force had seen substantial budget cuts since 2010. He read a quote from the Chief Constable to 'expect a different force'. Inspector Truscott informed that the priority of the force remains protecting the vulnerable in society but other aspects of policing may change

6 Area commands in Northumberland has reduced to 3 and Amble is in the Northern area. A lot of 'hubbing' (the closure of police stations) has been taking place with the Leslie Drive site in Amble being sold and the station relocated to premises in Fourways 2. The response rate since the introduction of hubbing in Amble has remained the same. Overall, crime in Amble is down by 8% compared to last year.

The rules of crime counting have now changed, with all crimes recorded at the first contact and not after investigation to see if the incident is genuine. The pub watch scheme in the town is incredibly good and Inspector Truscott praised the Amble Officers for their dedication and work.

124. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

124.1: The minutes of the meeting held 8 October 2015 were agreed as a true record.

125. CLERK'S REPORT:

The Council noted the contents of the report and considered actions where necessary.

125.1: 'Revamp of website' – Only seeking quotations, one provider has estimated that the Council should budget in the region of £6000. More costs for a revamp of the existing site would be sought for the next meeting.

Clerk

125.2: Parking and Traffic regulations; notes of meeting held 23 September 2015 (Appendix 1)

The minutes of the October meeting had not yet been received from NCC despite requests for the minutes in advance of the Council meeting. It was noted by Cllr Arckless that the Highways team resources were stretched at present. It was suggested by the Clerk that now that the staffing situation had improved in the Town Council office, perhaps we could offer to do the minutes if NCC were agreeable. This was agreed by Members.

125.3: Pension Auto-enrolment update. Notes attached (Appendix 2) Cllrs Lewis and Morrison had applied for dispensations as they were both in receipt of Local Government Pensions. The request was agreed by Members. Cllr Watson declared an interest as a Member of the Pension Fund board in his role as County Councillor. As the advice requested from the local accountant had not yet been received, and by law the Council should notify employees of the chosen pension scheme 6 weeks prior to the staging date it was agreed to ask the Pensions Regulator if it would be possible to defer the staging date by 1 or 2 months. The Clerk would continue to chase up the advice from the accountant and circulate the LGPS briefing note received from Clare Gorman at NCC to the Members for information. It was agreed to hold an Extraordinary meeting of the Council on 25th November at 17.30 to carry on discussions.

Clerk

125.4: Trees for Acklington Road – To be planted November/December - This item was for information.

125.5: Section 278 Agreement (of the Highways Act 1980) with Persimmon Homes – The Clerk informed that the funds and a copy of the legal agreement had been received. She would review the paperwork and report to the Council.

125.6: NALC Open letter – The Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk had been unable to meet in time and the deadline had now passed.

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126 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

The Chairman informed that he attended the Dagger money presentation evening in October and the Amble Remembrance Service which went well but required some minor tweaking; a report would be produced for the Council to consider.

Lewis

127 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

127.1: County Councillor Arckless' report was circulated.

127.2: County Councillor Watson commented that he was still pursuing the removal of the roadside memorials, noting that one had come down.

Cllr Watson informed that he was pursuing the changing of the road from Hope Farm Crossroads to The Guildens to a restricted road or 20 mph. The Acklington Road 'dip' as previously reported Mr Walters had now been fixed by NCC.

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

The report of Councillors who represent ATC on outside bodies were received.

NALC AGM – Cllr Dargue (Appendix 3) The report was accepted for information.

Amble Youth Project – Cllr Morrison – The report had been circulated electronically and was accepted for information.

129. FINANCIAL REPORT:

129.1: The accounts for payment for the month were agreed, and the Council noted receipts for information (Appendix 4)

129.2: An update on YTD, earmarked funds and bank reconciliation (Appendix 4 i) was accepted for information.

129.3: Consideration of requests for donations/grants (Appendix 4 ii):

- **Amble Tavern FC** – It was agreed that a letter be sent to Amble Tavern FC requesting them to itemise training equipment required. A donation of up to £400 of equipment was agreed in principle and delegated to the Chair with the Clerk subject to the specific training equipment details being submitted. Clerk/Weir
- **The Puffin Lounge** - Pursuant to Local Government Act 1972 section 137, it was agreed to grant a donation of up to £100 for dementia friendly games subject to item specifics being received. It was agreed that if the Club ceased, the games would be returned to the Council. Clerk
- **Hippotherapy Northumberland** – Pursuant to Local Government Act 1972, section 137, it was agreed that should an Amble child require the therapy, the group should submit an application form for the sponsorship of an Amble child. Clerk
- **Great British High Street Awards ceremony** – No information had been received for this item at the time of publication of the agenda. Due to the awards ceremony taking place prior to the next meeting of the Council; Cllr Morrison requested that the Council consider funding travel expenses of up to £200 so that the Director of the Development Trust could attend the awards ceremony in London. Members agreed in principle to this although it would need to be ratified at the December meeting of the Town Council. Morrison
- **Hope Farm Equestrian Centre – Funding Request** – No information had been received for this item at the time of publication of the agenda – Members agreed that the grant should be considered at the December meeting of the Council.

130. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

130.1: A meeting of the Amenities Committee would be held on 26th November 2015

131: PLANNING COMMITTEE

A report of planning applications received is attached.

132: AGENDA ITEMS:

132.1: To consider the purchase of Clock Tower digital regulation system & time change unit
- Members considered a quotation to the amount of £1836 plus VAT and agreed to accept upon clarification of the following:

- The lead sheeting on the roof of the war memorial required inspecting
- Clarification was required; following the instance of a power cut, does the auto regulation system restart the pendulum automatically or would this still require an manual re-start?
- Clarification of whether the auto regulation system work in damp/condensation conditions?
The clock tower tends to be damp on the inside possibly as a result of rain entering the

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gaps in the shutters at the side of the war memorial.

This would be delegated to the Chair and Clerk to progress. It was felt that if the last two bullet points were answered negatively, then the new system may not be worthwhile.

Clerk/Weir

132.2 To consider the News page content (Appendix 5) – The news page was agreed with amendments.

132.3: Town History Trail revamp- Request to approve changes and include finance in next year's budget. (Appendix 6) – This item was agreed by Members with £5500 to be included in the budget.

132.4: Youth Organisation Meeting- (Appendix 7) – The report was accepted for information.

132.5: To consider the future of the Youth Organisation meetings – It was agreed to carry on the Youth Organisation meeting informally for a further 6-9 months.

132.6: Approval for budget to produce a leaflet/handout with programme of activities for under 18s – Members agreed in principle to £1000 towards the production of a handout.

132.7: Approval for Chair to meet with JCSC Interim Head Teacher regarding Inter Community Working – It was agreed that the Chair and the Clerk would meet with the Head Teacher.

Clerk/Weir

132.8: Request for Approval to submit Grant bid (Appendix 8) – Members agreed to submit a bid for funding additional play equipment at Paddlers Park, the application was delegated to Cllrs Lewis and the Clerk. Regarding the future routine maintenance of Paddlers Park, it was agreed to hold an Extraordinary meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday 1st December at 18.00 in the Council Office. Maintenance cost would be discussed.

Clerk/Lewis

132.9: Draft budget 2016/17 (Appendix 9 – to follow) – The draft budget was circulated for information and agreed to be returned to the December meeting of the Council, accurate figures for pension provision and Paddlers Park maintenance were required for inclusion.

133. COMMUNICATIONS:

133.1: NCC - Parking Enforcement Vehicle - briefing note – The note had been circulated for information.

133.2: NCC - Rural Parishes Meetings November 2015 – No Members were available to attend on this occasion.

133.3: NCC - Invitation to meeting on supported bus services (North area) – Cllr Dargue agreed to attend the meeting.

Dargue

133.4: NCC - 2016/17 Parish Precepts – The formal request for the precept was received requesting the demand be returned to the principal authority by no later than 1st February.

133.5: Northumberland Coast AONB Annual Forum – It was agreed that Cllr Weir would attend on behalf of the Council.

Weir

133.6: NECA Devolution, Local Stakeholder event - 10 Nov at 5pm, Woodhorn Museum – Cllr Robinson had attended this event and a report would be circulated.

Clerk

133.7: NCC - Consultation on proposed changes to the fire and rescue service - The Service has to save £500,000 in 2016/17 on top of the £3m already cut since 2010.

Detailed analysis, and the professional expertise of firefighters, have been used in developing these proposals. Should the proposed changes be approved the fire and rescue service will continue to have 21 emergency response vehicles across the county and, through the introduction of smaller fire appliances and flexible staffing, in some areas cover will be increased.

The proposals are:

- Removing the retained (on-call) fire appliance from West Hartford Community Fire Station. The station will still have two fire appliances staffed round the clock. The retained fire appliance only attended 8.4% of incidents within the last five years. There is also cover from Pegswood Community Fire Station.
- Replacing the second retained (on-call) fire appliance at Alnwick Community Fire Station and the retained (on-call) fire appliances at Ponteland, Seahouses and Wooler Community Fire Stations with smaller fire appliances. Alnwick will continue to have a retained (on-call) appliance as well as a smaller fire appliance. The smaller appliances can attend all of the incidents the larger traditional fire appliances can attend. With the introduction of flexible staffing arrangements the appliances could respond to certain incidents staffed by less than four firefighters; as a result it will increase the amount of times they are available and enhance the emergency response cover. The smaller appliances are also much more cost effective to lease and run than larger traditional fire appliances.
- Closing Haydon Bridge Fire Station with cover to be provided by Hexham, Haltwhistle and Allendale Fire Stations. Over the last five years there were only 96 incidents in Haydon Bridge and over half (57%) of these incidents were small fires or false alarms. A third of incidents (33%) within the Haydon Bridge area were attended by surrounding stations.

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- More joint working with other Fire and Rescue Services and agencies to reduce costs.

There will be no changes to Pegswood, Hexham, Berwick, Amble, Belford, Bellingham, Haltwhistle, Prudhoe, Rothbury and Holy Island.

A 12 week consultation period was imminent.

133.8: Highways & footpaths – Circulated by email; Cllr Arckless asked Members to provide examples of footpath and road maintenance where repairs seem long overdue, but also sites where work has been done and it hasn't been of a good standard. ALL

The Clerk also informed that as she was due to meet with the NEAT team manager on 8th December, it would be helpful if Members could identify areas for edging and pruning, litter hot spots etc so that this information could be fed back to the NCC.

133.9: Banks Mining – Highborn Planning submission – This was noted for information.

133.10: NCC – Review of Public Conveniences – The recommendations for the Public toilets in Amble had been agreed. It was noted that a Market Trader had made a private arrangement with Neighbourhood services to open the Harbour Toilets on market days.

133.11: Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy – Members were requested to submit comments to the Clerk by 24th November. It was agreed to delegate the Chair and the Clerk to compile a response of 25th November. ALL

133.12: NCC - Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy Consultation – The consultation would be circulated for any member comments. Clerk

134. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

The Council noted the following information items.

134.1: NALC e-NEWS Oct 2015

134.2: CAN News Autumn 2015

134.3: NALC Training Sessions – NOVEMBER

134.4: CANNY News October 2015

134.5: Northumberland AONB - Coastal Views October Edition

134.6: NCC - SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE, WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2015

134.7: Local Councils Update – November 2015

134.8: Puffins – added to red list of species at danger of extinction

135. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

135:1 The next Meeting will be on Thursday 10th December 2015 at 6.00pm. in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace.

Mrs Spulher had sat through the meeting unaware that she had missed the public participation section but asked to speak now. The Chair therefore allowed her to speak.

Mrs Spulher raised concerns that no consultation had yet taken place on the one-way system and queried when the individual houses would receive letters. She commented that in her opinion the one-way system did not give consideration to HGV, particularly on Bridge Street to Queen Street junction. Mrs Spulher also queried whether a large car park would be provided for the town.

Whilst parking notes had not yet been received from NCC, the Clerk suggested that now that the staffing situation had improved for the Council, the Clerk would recommence the note taking of meetings. Members agreed that the Parking notes would be put in the public domain and Mrs Spulher be sent a copy. Clerk

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

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

ADT Management Committee Meeting 21st October 2015 – Cllr Dargue

LMAPS meeting 20th October 2015 – Cllr Morrison

Reports were acknowledged for information.

137: MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

137.1: The minutes of the meeting held 8 October 2015 (TC Minutes) were agreed as a true record.

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138: CLERKS REPORT

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

138.1: Site appraisal of potential development site – The valuation of the land would be circulated to Members for information.

Clerk

138.2: High Street land update – The Agents undertaking the valuation had requested the Clerk's proof of identity before progressing this matter.

138.3: Infringement of Lease – The Clerk would circulate the letter from the solicitors regarding this matter.

Clerk

139: Staffing – To consider staff appraisals – Members were unhappy with the formatting of the appraisals and requested the formatting be changed and the appraisals be resubmitted to the Council for consideration. Cllr Cassidy was delegated to assist the Clerk in developing a new format.

Clerk/Cassidy

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

DRAFT