

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – JANUARY 2019

The Minutes of the meeting of 10 January 2019 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs Craig Weir, (Chair), Cllrs H Lewis, I Parks, K Morrison, J Watson, T Hinton, J Dargue

The Chair informed that the meeting was being recorded for administrative and transparency purposes.

The Minutes of the meeting of 10 January 2019 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

201. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

It was noted that the Council today received a letter of resignation from Martin Horn. The Clerk to write a letter as appropriate and begin the co-option process.

Clerk

In the absence of a reporter from local press it was agreed to send expanded items from the minutes to formulate a press release; however it was believed the staffing situation had changed and the Gazette would be contacted to see if a reporter would be available in the future.

Clerk

202. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members are requested to advise Council of any Declarations of Interest appertaining to the following Agenda Items:

202.1 Cllrs Parks, Lewis and Weir declared an interest in Allotments.

Cllr Dargue declared an interest in Northumberland Pride Grant Request and Cllr Weir declared an interest in expenses.

203. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

Louise Hodgson attended from Northumbria Police. The main issues that have been reported since the last meeting are youths riding on mini motorbikes mainly around the Tynedale area. There have also been some incidents of disorder. There have been two burglaries reported. The CCTV did not pick up on one of the properties despite being in a key location because it was not working. Discussions are continuing with Alncom and the clerk is trying to set up a meeting. ATC requested that as much as possible, Northumbria Police let ATC know when a camera is down. Louise clarified that Northumbria Police cannot view the CCTV camera unless there is an incident reported. It was queried whether Alncoms system had the ability to send an alert when a camera was offline. ATC are to seek assurance that the cameras are fit for purpose before purchasing any further. There have been issues with boy racers using the industrial estate for speeding. ATC are aware the future plans for this area will make this very dangerous. Cllr Clark also reported off road motorbikes on the Lord Mayor's field and Charles Road.

Cllr Dargue reported that there has been an alleged incident of drinks being spiked over the new year period. Northumbria Police carried out walk ins over the festive period and found the bars quite quiet. There has been no formal reports made of drinks being spiked.

ATC thanked Louise for her time.

204 CO-OPTION VACANCY

An application was received from Mrs Christine Butler. Christine has lived in Amble for 15 years and has been impressed by how much the town has changed in the last 8 years making it very much her home. She is keen to become involved in local community projects. Christine is also involved with the Amble Women's Institute and helped set it up. A closed ballot was held which

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resulted in Christine Butler being co-opted on to Amble Town Council. Christine to make an appointment with the Clerk to discuss further and sign declaration of acceptance of office before taking on the role.

Clerk

205. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

206. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

206.1 Clerk's Report

All items are contained within the agenda for discussion

207. CHAIRMANS COMMUNICATION and REPORT

207.1. Chairman's Report

Cllr Weir attended an in event in Morpeth for the Suffragettes. He also attended and spoke at the St Cuthberts Church Xmas Service. He continues to link in with AONB, Litterbugs Warkworth, Coastal Care and Friends of the Earth in relation to the work that has been going on with plastics' awareness and littering. The new crisp packet drop off initiative was discussed and work to be carried out to establish a suitable drop off point in Amble. The Clerk to add this to the JCSC agenda. The Clerk to obtain a list of events from Litterbugs in order that they can be advertised. Cllrs were also reminded that they are attending an open event for The Amble Inn on 11 January. Confirmed to attend are: Cllrs Parks, Lewis, Weir and Morrison and staff.

Clerk
Clerk

207.2. Vice Chairman Report

All of the meetings are contained with agenda for discussion

208. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

208.1 To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

Cllr Clark has received complaints about noisy neighbours and anti- social behaviour from people on scooters on footpaths around Redesdale, Charles Road and Anne Crescent.

Cllr Clark has requested that further yellow lines are to be added to Broomhill Street / Leazes Street and will fund these via his members' small schemes.

The concrete post on the Leslie Drive footpath / grass has been relocated to accommodate wheelchair users.

He has been involved in a change of tenancy agreement for some residents ensuring they can remain in their home.

He reported that the signs for the NCR1 have been installed but old ones are still in place which is causing some confusion. There has also been a complaint that the changes have not been advertised well enough.

He reported that the bunk house was approved planning permission at the Local Area Committee and that £4000 S106 monies had been assured for Coastal Mitigation. Clarity was requested from Cllr Watson on what the legal definition of use of Coastal mitigation monies and how far the coastal land covers inland. It is a legal requirement that these monies are spent County Wide or is this an NCC decision? Cllr Watson to confirm. S106 training I desperately needed for some Cllrs in order that they may have a better understanding of the process.

Cllr Clark continues to receive emails and concerns regarding Signal Cottage.

209.2. To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

Cllr Watson reported that the education formula which is used to determine what additional

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support is needed in schools confirms that JCSC do not need further help as the large year group was only seen as a temporary 'bulge'.

Cllr Watson has arranged for Dean Jackson, Neil Rodgers and another staff member to attend a meeting with ATC to look at what is going on. As far as NCC are aware there has been no Business Plan produced and the SEN offer has not been followed up by JCSC.

Cllr Watson reported that although there was S106 monies for first and primary schools, that he was trying to get some of this to be available for secondary education.

He has also been in discussions with the developer around the New Hall footpath. They agree that it is a good idea but they are reluctant to finance any further monies if they do not have to. They are to meet again to see if a solution can be reached. The Clerk to add to JCSC agenda.

Councillors were dismayed and confused as to why JCSC were of the opinion that they had submitted a business case and that they were over subscribed in some year groups. Their business plan was to look how they were going to achieve a single site school. Both to be discussed further with them.

Clerk

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

190.1 To receive the report of Councillors who represent ATC on outside bodies (Cllr Reports)

Cllr Weir was involved in further meetings to discuss the potential land sale, also met with reps from the Masonic Lodge. The Christmas tree was taken down with the help of Helen Lewis, Martin Horn and others. He attended a meeting of the Youth Project who appointed a new trustee. He also reported that the AYP are doing well financially thanks to the help of Lara. AYP are currently looking for more volunteers and staff. They are hoping to have a Saturday morning drop in from 11am – 1pm if they can have the staff to cover it.

211. FINANCIAL REPORT:

211.1 To consider voucher numbers for payment 315 - 328 and receipt vouchers 148 – 149
– The receipts and payments were approved. It was queried why 324 had been zeroed.

211.2. Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation was approved

211.3. YTD figures

The year to date figures needed some adjustments made. HL / Clerk to meet.

211.4. Grant requests

Northumberland Pride

Councillors agreed to support Northumberland Pride with a donation of £700 towards a marquee and printing of leaflets with any extra cash left over to go towards banners.

Clerk

Hospice Care North Northumberland

This request had been deferred from the last meeting as ATC requested further information specifically relating to Amble. As the data could not be given at this time Councillors were reluctant to donate the full amount and instead agreed to support with a £500 donation. The Clerk to contact and request that any future request is supported with Amble specific data.

Clerk

Amble First Rangers

In the past ATC has supported those trips but feel that large sums should be kept for those working in Amble's community. On this occasion, as the group had helped by raising funds, they agreed to support with a donation of £200 per person, totally £600.

Clerk

Alnwick and District Sports Award

A request was received to sponsor a trophy as last year at a cost of £120. The Council agreed to support this with a retrospective full grant application as the limit for a basic request was £100. The Clerk to add the suggestion to amend the grant policy to the next AGM.

Clerk

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212. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

221.1 The next Amenities was due to take place on 31st January 2018; this was moved forward to 24th January as several members could not attend on 31st- AAHS to be informed.

213: PLANNING COMMITTEE

213.1 To note planning outcomes for January 2018 – Noted

213.2 Update on signage and lights at The Sand Bar - Noted

214. AGENDA ITEMS:

214.1 To approve A5 certificate quotes for Council awards

It was agreed to proceed with the quote of £106 for 500 certificates.

Clerk

214.2 To discuss the CCTV performance

A meeting to discuss the performance of the CCTV was needed. The Clerk to send the info to Cllr Watson.

Clerk

214.3 To discuss the options available to prevent pigeons roosting on War Memorial

Various ideas had been looked at but some were not as suitable or effective for the area and building. There are various ultrasonic devices available to purchase. The Clerk to seek information from NCC, Paul Morrison and NALC to see if they have any experience. It was agreed for Cllrs Lewis and Weir to progress and enquire with the relevant people. It was also delegated that a sum of up to £500 be available to purchase a device in order to protect the towns investment of the Clock Tower.

Clerk

214.4 To discuss West Cemetery complaints

All complaints have now been dealt with. A review of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations will need to be held in order to better reflect the Council's decision to remove temporary markers installed by funeral directors after some months.

214.5 To discuss the possibility of a Town Square Christmas Tree for 2019

Currently it was felt that Betty's Tree in the Memorial Gardens could not be removed. It was suggested that this tree could be used as the town square xmas tree by adding lights to it while in the meantime, growing and bringing on a more suitable tree for future use in a more suitable location. The Clerk to ask the Christmas Lights Committee if they will be able to put lights on this tree. Any ongoing costs will need to be considered as well as all Health and Safety Precautions.

Clerk

Additional Items

Complaints have been received regarding the town clock chiming out of time. The Clerk to contact Smiths of Derby.

Clerk

A new noticeboard is to be placed on the wall facing the TIC Car Park. As this is a replacement of the one that used to be there it is not thought that further permission will be needed.

It has been agreed with NCC that the Rotary Way planter will remain in NCC colours; members decided The Wynd bed will be in recognition of 100 years since the first woman took her seat in Parliament. The rest of the town is to be as much colour as possible.

The deadline dates for The Ambler are to be circulated. Ideas for the newsletter to be sent to Cllr Lewis, Cllrs corner will be done by Cllr Morrison.

215. COMMUNICATIONS:

215.1 To note the letter of thanks from Robert Arckless

Noted

215.2 Roadside Litter Campaign

Noted

215.3 To note Privacy Policy and Notice from Adam Douglas LLP

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Noted

215.4 Anti-Social Behaviour Report – Straffen Court

The Clerk to circulate details to police and members.

Clerk

215.5 To note request to move the location of the flagpole

This has been sent to ADT for consideration at their next meeting.

215.6 NALC Enews 18/12,

Circulated, members to reply to survey as individuals if they wish

215.7 Letter from Azure

Noted

215.8 Letter from NCC about street naming query at Coquet Enterprise Park/Sandpiper Way

Noted

215.9 Letter to ADT re ownership of Memorial Gardens

Noted. A copy to be circulated to Cllr Watson and Hinton.

Clerk

216. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

RECOMMENDATION - That the Council note the information items.

216.1 To note the NALC / NJC Pay Scales 2019/2020

Noted

216.2 To note the precept request sent to NCC

Noted

216.3 To note A1 North of Ellingham – update on junction improvements

Noted

216.6 Royal Garden Party Nominations

Clerk to arrange nomination of Cllr Weir for ATC.

Clerk

217. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

217.1 The next Meeting is to be scheduled to take place on 14 February 2018 at 6.00pm

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

218: MINUTES –

218.1: To approve the Town Council minutes of 13 December 2018 items 198 – 200.5

Approved

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

None

220. AGENDA ITEMS

220.1 Discussion with Masonic Lodge and Developer.

A meeting was held with the Masonic Lodge Representative Geoff Gordon. ATC reiterated their conversation with developers and took Mr Gordon's details to pass on.

Cllrs Lewis and Weir met with the developer ahead of the meeting with Mr Gordon, to which he was also invited to attend. Councillors were made aware of some legal fees. The Clerk to circulate the NALC guidelines and email from solicitor to Councillors for information. The Clerk to also seek clarity from Mike Robbins at NCC with regards to the contradictions in the guidelines.

Clerk
Clerk

The Council agreed to delegate the negotiations to Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk and agreed the

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respective legal fees for that work.

Further communications have been held in regards to a tenancy agreement and members agreed the clarification of the way forward.

221. Communications

221.1 Correspondence from M Hewitt

Further correspondence received has been submitted to the solicitor who has dealt with it as appropriate.

222. PENSION ENROLMENT

The Council currently employs staff who do not earn enough for auto enrolment but who still wish to contribute to the pension scheme and benefit from the Council's policy to contribute 10%. The Clerk to progress this with an outcome by the next meeting.

Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chairs Signature.....