

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – October 2018

The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 11 October 2018 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs Craig Weir, (Chair), Cllrs H Lewis, M Horn, I Hinson, I Parks, K Morrison, T Hinton
V Smith - Town Clerk,

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

143. APOLOGIES

Apologies accepted from Cllr Dargue, Cllr Watson.

144. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

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

145. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

An update was given by Northumbria Police. 20 Crimes have been reported, 8 antisocial behavior. The CCTV is proving useful and a record is being kept. Northumbria Police requested that more people use 101 non-emergency line or 999 in an emergency rather than they receive information from unofficial sources. This will enable them to respond as appropriate.

146. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

146.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2018
Item number 124 – 143.2 were approved as a true record.

147. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

The Clerk was involved in Parking meetings as well as meetings with JCSC, Stephen Lunn, Richard Schofield, Northumbria Police, Ben Newall, Homes for Northumberland and NCC. Additional meetings covered include Planning and Amenities. All notes available.

148. CHAIRMANS COMMUNICATION and REPORT

148.1. Chairman's Report

The chair attended all meetings with the Clerk as well as attended the Age UK Charity Dinner and a civic reception.

148.2. Vice Chairman Report

All meetings attended by the vice chair are those which are covered within the agenda

149. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

149.1 To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

Cllr Clark has received complaints regarding moss on Queen Street and the danger that this poses to people walking on the pavements as it is very slippery. He has discussed the issue with NCC who have said that the responsibility lies with the building owners to have the guttering cleaned

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – October 2018

out. A letter to all businesses will be sent by NCC. A deep clean of Queen Street has been programmed for Spring.

He also received complaints about obstructions to the pavement. Cllr Clark received a follow up from Mrs Stephenson regarding traffic enforcement officers attending the problematic parking areas. ATC confirmed that they had requested a parking “blitz” but that the areas we had requested had not been looked at. The areas that were attended were mainly those that they already do. Clerk to request that they revisit the areas specifically requested. This issue also to be added to the parking agenda.

Cllr Clark also reported that he has met the new families that have been relocated to Amble and was warmed to see how the community had rallied round and offered them support. He is aware however that there is some concern that much needed local housing stock has been taken.

149.2. To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

No report available.

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

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

Additional meeting attendance included meetings with Sodexo, Arch, community litter pick, NALC, AYP, Great British Highstreet, NALC.

Cllr Morrison attended the AYP meeting, the first ‘HERE FOR YOU’ festival looks place on 30 September, the Youth Project will also be taking part in the Amble Xmas Lights parade. Another charity body shop party has been arranged for Tuesday 23rd October at Masonic Lodge starting at, 8pm. All welcome to buy xmas presents or for yourself. A new website is in the process of being created.

Due to temporary internal technical issues Kate Morrison (trustee) has taken over as, Acting Manager.

Cllr Morrison reported on the changes to the building that are due to take place.

AONB – Cllr Morrison will circulate the notes when they are available.

Cllr Weir and Lewis attended the joint NCC and Town and Parish meeting “The Market Place” which was very useful and provided some good contacts for ATC.

Sarah Dunne, events committee is making octopus sculptures from recycled milk bottles – please also keep the lids.

Cllr Weir and Cllr Parks attended the NALC AGM which discussed the Borderland project. The purpose of this is to create a consortium of areas which can be combined in order to access further funding for specific projects. The areas included are Northumberland, Cumbria and Scottish Borders authorities.

The query regarding open spaces and the settlement boundaries and why they are different will be looked at and Cllrs were assured that these would be unified once the Local Plan was finalised.

151. FINANCIAL REPORT:

151.1 To consider voucher numbers for payment 196 - 220 and receipt vouchers 93 - 102

Cllr Weir declared an interest in voucher 212.

The receipts and payments were approved.

151.2. Bank Reconciliation

The reconciliation was accepted.

151.3. YTD figures

The year to date figures were noted.

Clerk

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – October 2018

151.4. Grant requests

Dancdynamic – It was agreed to support with a £199 donation for Sound equipment

Great North Air Ambulance – It was agreed to support with a donation of £100.

Community Action Northumberland – It was agreed to support with a donation of £100.

Clerk would ascertain which organisations we usually give an annual donation to and include these en-bloc in the May meeting.

Clerk
Clerk

Clerk
Clerk
Clerk

151.5 Future Project Aspirations

The Clerk to work out all the CCTV costs.

A budget meeting with Gillian Turner to be arranged for end of October.

Budget discussions to be held in full at next Full Council meeting. Some current suggestions include further CCTV and Street Art. All Cllrs are invited to the budget discussions. The Clerk to circulate the date.

152. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

152.1 The minutes of the Amenities Committee from 27 September 2018 were noted. It was noted that the works to the front of the Allotment Hut has commenced. Members were made aware of the decision that the leasing of the Raised Beds area will cease. It was also noted that from November to March the water at the West Cemetery will be turned off.

153: PLANNING COMMITTEE

153.1 Planning Outcomes for September 2018

Noted

153.2 Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 25 September 2018

The planning meeting was well attended to discuss the Morrisons retail development. Comments have been submitted to the planning portal. Clarification was given on the removal of trees – as the trees were already on the land and don't have any TPOs, any developer can do whatever they wish with the trees. A discharge of conditions is for what they are going to put in rather than what they are going to take out. Further meetings with Richard Schofield are to be arranged as well as The Amble Inn. A letter has been sent to Planning NCC regarding the creation of street names for the Industrial Estate area to request confirmation of when these were accepted and what the new post codes are. Cllr Lewis has a map of the areas if needed.

A complaint had been received about the mess left at Signal Cottage and ATC requested that NCC planning visited the site for review. The enforcement officer attended and found that there was nothing that could be done at the time.

153.3 Request of meeting with Signal Cottage applicants and ATC response.

ATC received a request to meet to discuss the Signal Cottage plans. ATC have declined to meet as usually the Council only meets with large scale developments that will affect the town as a whole.

Clerk

154. AGENDA ITEMS:

154.1 Retrospective Approval of Newspaper October 2018

The news page was approved.

154.2 Results of NCC Parking Survey

The Clerk to circulate the Parking Survey to members asap. The Parking Survey shows that Amble does have a parking problem. It was also encouraging to note that there was a good turnover on Queen Street. The Council has been assured that Amble is included in the £10M set aside for parking solutions county wide.

Clerk

154.3 Report from visit to Stephen Lunn Workshop

Some Cllrs attended Stephen Lunn's workshop and have been extremely impressed with the structure he has created for the Peace Memorial. It is currently being galvanised before painting

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – October 2018

commences. It is expected that the sculpture will be in place by end of October. The Northumberland Gazette requested photos of the sculpture but as it is not finished yet, the Clerk to seek Stephen's approval.

154.4 Update from meeting with Northumbria Police and NCC Highways re Remembrance Day arrangements

The Clerk attended a meeting with Northumbria Police to bring them up to speed with upcoming events. Despite ATC having confirmation from Safety Advisory Group they claimed they were not aware of the afternoon / evening WW1 celebrations. There was some concerns regarding the evening event which have been identified and risk assessed. After discussions with the police, ATC have sought quotes for professional security and crowd management assistance. Additional lighting has been sourced and a risk assessment has been produced. ATC have asked NCC if they can level the large pot holes at North Bank. ATC agreed to proceed with a quote of £256 which would give 4 hours of service, 4 stewards with one at an SIA level. The professionals will be lined at strategic places along the barrier and the volunteers will be placed in between. One steward will be needed on the beacon barrier. A designated route for the band to walk will be put in place. Posters will be created to advertise the event.

Clerk

Weir

Cllr Weir is to meet with the cadets to discuss their parade in the morning. There will also be a meeting with Rotary stewards.

Clerk

The peace sculpture will be blessed on the morning of the 11th and due to the location not being accessible to crowds of people, CCT will place their hands on the sculpture while it is blessed from the top of the steps. Mr and Mrs Boswell will provide refreshments free of charge.

Clerk

To light the beacon, ATC have to supply the logs, kindling and paper which are kindly being donated by Lawrences. The Clerk to write a letter of thanks and publicise on Facebook.

Help will be needed from 9am on Saturday and Sunday morning.

An email from Bruno Peeks has been received which has notified all those taking part in a change of the order of the event. The Beacon will now be lit for 7pm but the Cry For Peace will take place AFTER the lighting of the beacon. The Clerk to amend the poster and alert Ben Newall and Reaction Fireworks.

Clerk

155.5 Request from Amble First School for a visit from Cllrs for a mixed y3/4 class

The Clerk to contact to say ATC are willing to attend whenever it convenient. ATC have also been invited to attend the JCSC themed assemblies which take place midday. The Clerk to request a list of themes so ATC can see if they can fit in with any of them. ATC were invited to attend an assembly to see how they run before committing to attend.

Clerk

155. COMMUNICATIONS:

155.1 To note the Completion Report from the War Memorials Trust and their grant contribution

ATC were successful in their grant of obtaining £30k from the War Memorials Trust.

155.2 Email from Images by Hand and producing an illustrated map of the town

The Clerk to thank them for their interest but decline on this occasion

All

155.3 Creative Civic Change Programme by NTC

An expression of interest has already been submitted on behalf of Amble. Nationally 10 projects will be chosen and supported by professionals. The outcome will be reported through the Events Committee.

Clerk

155.4 Invite to Coquet Estuary Vision Programme

Noted. If Cllrs wish to attend they are to confirm individually.

All

155.5 Response from Natural England re England Coastal Path

Noted

155.6 Friends of Alnmouth Station

Noted – The Clerk to send a letter of congratulations.

Clerk

155.7 Volunteer Opportunities with Coast Care Project

A list of opportunities has been circulated, If anyone would like to get involved please contact Cllr

Clerk

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – October 2018

Morrison.

155.8 Official Invitation to Service of Commemoration

Clerk

Due to the events that are being run by ATC on this day there will not be any members available to attend the Hexham ceremony.

155.9 Letter from resident regarding land behind Leslie Drive

The Clerk to acknowledge the letter and signpost the resident to Homes for Northumberland or NCC who are aware and have carried out the work. The Clerk to contact Lee Farrier. The Clerk to forward HfN notes and email from resident to Terry Clark.

155.10 Complaint from resident regarding slippery pavements on Queen Street due to excessive Moss

Covered above in the agenda

Clerk

155.11 Letter from resident of Mariners View

Cllrs Horn and Parks declared an interested.

It was confirmed that as this development is actually in Warkworth parish that ATC is normally unable to comment on complaints, however, accessing the A1068 will have affects on Amble. ATC also has concern regarding drainage and sewage going into the existing systems. Cllr Weir and Lewis met the planning enforcement officer at the NCC Joint meeting – the Clerk to pass the letter on for investigation. There is concern also regarding the noise and dust from the development and the lack of communication with neighbours. The enforcement officer openda new case.

Clerk

Clerk

There is also concern regarding the use of the back roads. The Clerk to reply to the resident with cc to Jeff Watson and Warkworth Parish Council.

Another resident of Mariners View have complained that when the new fence was erected, their hedge was damaged, the Clerk to contact the site manager.

156. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION: RECOMMENDATION - That the Council note the information items.

Clerk

156.1 NALC Enews 25/9, 10/2

Noted

156.2 Changes to Refuse Routes w/c 22nd October & w/c 12th November 2018

Noted – no change for Amble

Clerk

156.3 Email communication from D Martin

The Clerk to respond to state that ATC has no control over business pricing.

156.4 Community Action Newsletter

Noted.

156.5 Notes from meeting Richard Schofield

Clerk to arrange a follow up meeting

156.6 Notes of Partnership Meeting with NCC on 18 September 2018

During closed hours, NCC have had to put a padlock on the disabled toilets at the former TIC building due to anti-social behaviour.

156.7 To note the minutes of the Parking Meeting on 19 September 2018

Noted

156.8 Notes from meeting with JCSC

Noted

156.9 Draft Notes from meeting with Homes for Northumberland

Noted – The estate walk abouts are to be reinstated.

156.10: Notes from Locality meeting with Ruth Bendell

Discussion took place around licensing and A Boards on pavements. ATC are not consulted on license applications.

157. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Meeting is to be scheduled to take place on 8 November 2018.

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – October 2018

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

158: MINUTES –

158.1: To approve the Town Council minutes 13 September 2018 items 140 – 143.2

Approved

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

Clerk

None

160. AGENDA ITEMS

Clerk

160.1 Review of the ATC NEST Pension Scheme and the LEL

The Clerk to confirm if the Lower Earnings Level (LEL) is a legal limit in terms of pension contributions. The Clerk to investigate changing the ATC pension scheme so that it allows all those staff to participate who wish to do so. It was agreed to go ahead as needed.

160.2 West Cemetery Interment Anomalies and New Procedures

Clerk

The Clerk and Cllrs Weir and Lewis met with some residents to discuss some issues that had occurred recently at the West Cemetery. Procedures have been amended accordingly and contact with the funeral director will be the first port of call for any future concerns of this nature.

160.3 Retrospective Approval regarding West Cemetery Interment

Retrospective approval was sought to remove an interment charge due to the exceptional circumstances at the West Cemetery. This was agreed as well as the additional costs incurred. A thank you letter is to be drafted for John Stoddart's assistance.

Clerk

160.4 Update on Land

ATC have agreed to proceed with an Option Agreement and the legal work will be carried out by Hay and Kilner. The developer has been informed of the possible legal implications and are happy to continue with the agreement. A more sophisticated drawing of the area has been produced.

Clerk

It was noted that the metal fence was still incorrectly in situ and that no action has been taken since ATC wrote to the tenant some time ago. The Clerk to write again.

160.5 Office Security Options to Consider

It was agreed that if any member of staff is lone working that the office should be locked. A notice on the door to be created to request that visitors knock before being allowed in. In future, appointments are to be made wherever possible.

The sliding door to be repaired and responsibility clarified.

160.6 To report if any update received re Paddlers Park

The repair for the water pump has been arranged for w/c 15 October.

Clerk

161. COMMUNICATION ITEMS

161.1 Damage to memorials at Amble West Cemetery

The Council has received numerous complaints regarding anti-social behaviour at the West Cemetery including stolen vases and flowers. In view of this and the other damage to some memorials in the cemetery, the Clerk to request Northumbria Police to patrol the area on their route to discourage this.

The complaint around a damaged memorial is still ongoing.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairs Signature.....

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – October 2018

ACRONYMS

**NCC – NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
CCT – COASTAL COMMUNITIES TEAM
CAN – COMMUNITY ACTION NORTHUMBERLAND
ATC – AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL
ADT – AMBLE DEVELOPMENT TRUST
PTA – PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION**

Chairs Signature.....