

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – July 2018

The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 12 July 2018 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs Craig Weir, (Chair), H Lewis (Vice-Chair), Cllrs J Dargue, M Horn, I Hinson, K Morrison, T Hinton. H Shepherd – Administrative Officer

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

78. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from V Smith - Town Clerk, Cllr Ian Parks and Cllr Watson.

79. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

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

87.5 Cllr Horn declared an interest in British Divers Marine Life Rescue

96.7 Cllr Horn declared an interest in NB Clark and Gloster Hill developments

80. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

In accordance with Section 1(d-g) of the ATC Standing Orders members of the public present may address the Council at this point on the agenda.

The Council/Committee reserves the right to respond or debate the issue at a later date.

There were no members of the public present

81. Paul Murphy – Shop Jacket

Mr. Murphy did not attend.

82. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

82.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held 14 June 2018

From 58 – 74.1 minutes were approved.

Cllr. Dargue asked why Northumbria Police have not submitted a report. It was suggested that they are informed of all future meeting dates and given a reminder one week before.

CLERK

A date is to be arranged for a photoshoot with Alcom and Liz Hall from Northumbria Police as soon as possible. Cllrs Watson, Clark, Weir and Lewis will also be in attendance.

CLERK

Councillors are concerned that cameras may not be being used to their capabilities and there have been quite a lot of negative comments regarding whether they work in social media recently.

83. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

Chairs Signature.....

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83.1 Clerks report

The report from the Clark was noted and further items were covered within the agenda.

Permission has now been granted for the installation of the peace sculpture. Stephen Lunn has begun his work. The public poll/survey continues for the favoured wording.

Permission has now been granted on the LBC for bird spikes.

The Clerk has been involved in various meetings, all the notes of which have been circulated with the agenda.

84. CHAIRMANS COMMUNICATION and REPORT

84.1. Chairman's Report

Grateful to be accepted to visit HMS Northumberland and also enjoyed participating in the Civic Garden Awards. Cllr. Weir thanked councillors for their involvement in the awards process, particularly Cllrs Park and Horn, who accompanied the guest judge from The Alnwick Garden.

84.2: Vice Chairman Report

The Vice -Chairman did not wish to add anything at this point as items for discussion were already included in the agenda.

85. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

85.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

Cllr. Clark has been dealing with a number of problems in the town concerning anti-social behaviour, noise nuisance, difficult neighbours, garden issues, uneven pavements beside Dolphin Court, speeding along Percy Drive and requests for a pedestrian crossing for Percy Drive to aid elderly people and children crossing for school in particular.

Cllr. Lewis suggested that Cllr. Robert Arkless could offer some advice about some of these issues, particularly traffic calming, that have been approached in previous years and rejected by residents. The recent accidents in that area and planned new developments warrant this being looked at again and Cllr. Weir thanked Cllr. Clark for talking this forward. Cllr. Weir said this subject would also be added to the agenda in the next parking meeting.

CLERK

Cllr. Horn wished to add that he did have discussions about 18 months ago with traffic police, about the possibility of moving the speed camera van from the regular location on the A1068 next to the Industrial Estate to Percy Drive however officers reported that figures from a previous speeding survey on Percy Drive did not warrant a speed camera on that road, although the mobile hand camera was used on Percy Drive last year. Cllr. Weir expressed uncertainty about whether a survey was ever carried out but regardless of that, felt that circumstances have changed somewhat since then, including the introduction of the 20 mph limit which is being disregarded by many motorists. It was therefore agreed that it may be worth considering a repeat survey being carried out.

Cllr. Clark did not wish to divulge any details about the incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Cllr. Clark confirmed that himself and Cllr. Watson have secured funding totalling £10,000 from the County Council Members Local Improvement Scheme, towards cost of the Peace Sculpture.

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The planning application for the Bunkhouse apartments with cycling accommodation was granted. Cllr Clark agreed with the development completely as he believes this will encourage more cycling tourists to the area.

Colony Festival – fantastic day with a great family atmosphere. Thank you to all involved.

Cllr. Clark expressed his disappointment with the effectiveness of the CCTV cameras, when family members were involved in an accident on Bridge Street and the incident could not be picked up on the camera. N Police to be asked why this could not be picked up on the camera.

Cllr. Lewis suggested that the two recent incidents that were recently reported should be discussed with Northumbria Police to determine why these incidents could not be picked up. Cllrs. are concerned that current officers in Amble may not have sufficient training in the use of the equipment and would like, if this is the case, to rectify this as a matter of urgency.

CLERK

A meeting with Inspector Hall will be arranged as soon as possible. Cllr Horn requested to attend the meeting.

CLERK

85.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

Cllr. Watson did not submit a report.

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

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

Cllr. Weir listed a number of meetings that he and other Cllrs. have attended over the past month including: parking, NTC, Sodexo, NCC – SLA, The Amble Youth Project and the JCSC Create event. These will be discussed in more details as part of the agenda.

Cllr. Parks attended the recent NALC Meeting at which the Local Plan was discussed, The Borderland Initiative and ongoing discussion about the North of Tyne and the devolution and election of Mayor.

Cllr. Weir attended the CAN meeting and the notes were circulated and noted.

Cllr. Weir highlighted discussions around The Grimsey Review about diminishing High Streets and the ideas for turning them around into a café culture, similar to Bisley Road in York. A CCTV review is also being completed.

Cllr. Hinton reported on The Youth Project. 8 – 13 yr olds have a full summer holiday programme in place. Seniors were asked to raise some money themselves for something they wanted to do but they did not take this opportunity forward. The kitchen will open as a youth café in the next fortnight. A Youth Festival will take place, 8th September on the Town Square. This is aimed at attracting older youths and integrating them with others. There are x15 senior regular attenders, who do not attend school. The Youth Project is working with the Food Bank during the summer holidays and some of the parents of children receiving free school meals at The Youth project will be invited to receive food parcels at the beginning and the end of the summer holidays if they would like to. An auction event will take place this weekend.

The CAN Job Club which is currently running in the Youth Project facilities, is providing a lot of opportunities for people but is growing rapidly. The opportunities for helping people to find work

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is a lot more positive. A larger space may need to be considered in the future. Cllr. Dargue asked if numbers have increased due to Hadston House no longer being a location for this. Cllr. Hinton confirmed that this is not the case at the moment but it may be the case in the future.

Cllr. Dargue suggested that if numbers are growing, that more pressure should be put on County Council for more training in Amble rather than in Alnwick. CAN currently run 3 employment hubs in other areas of Northumberland but is reliant on volunteers.

Cllr. Morrison attended the CAP meeting and the minutes were noted. Cllrs noted that attendance seemed to be disappointing. The meetings will be held less frequently. JSCS will be encouraged to participate. Cllr. Morrison explained the Challenge 25 scheme – if you look under 25 you may be asked to produce ID when purchasing alcohol.

Cllr. Hinton attending the ADT Meeting and there was not a great deal discussed at the meeting aside from financial matters. Minutes will be circulated but there was nothing to report to ATC. The AGM is taking place on Wednesday of next week. Cllrs are to provide a list of any questions to Cllr Hinton who will raise them at the AGM.

87. FINANCIAL REPORT:

87.1: To consider voucher numbers 87-129 for payment and receipt vouchers 48 – 64.

Cllr. Weir declared an interest in voucher 95

Cllr. Lewis declared an interest in vouchers 113 – 120

CLLRS

Payment and receipt were accepted.

Cllr. Morrison queried some receipts concerning the Events Committee which are to be looked into further by the Clerk.

Cllr. Lewis reminded the Admin Officer of the previous agreement of a re-print of Reflections.

87.2 Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconcile will follow when the Clerk and Admin Officer have had some time to work on it together, which was agreed.

CLERK

87.3 YTD figures

The year to date figures were noted. The Clerk is to reallocate insurances.

Cllr. Lewis suggested she meets with the Clerk to go through the reallocation of funds to check that payments have been allocated correctly as she may be unaware of some areas. Some payments have been made out of this year's funds rather than earmarked funds. Some admin is required around the costs of the war memorial refurbishment and allocation against the grant.

CLERK

CLERK
HS

87.4 Grant requests

- British Divers Marine Life Rescue

HL
CLERK

Cllrs considered a grant application for funds towards equipment for refloating stranded marine animals from the water for treatment. Cllr. Lewis wonders if there is a need for this in the Amble area. Cllr. Dargue confirmed that this may not be specific to Amble at the current time but it may be something that is needed in the future and was very supportive of the project.

A donation was proposed and Cllrs agreed unanimously to a grant of £100.00

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- Northumberland Theatre Company

Cllrs considered a grant application for the funding of further equipment needs for a community cinema. Cllr Dargue queried if the required licences have been acquired. Cllr Weir confirmed this is the case. The group were given some equipment from the Parish Church but unfortunately it is not suitable to use on a regular basis. Although the sound system they have already is adequate, the group would like to purchase further equipment to enhance the public experience.

CLERK

Cllr Lewis feels uncomfortable about funding items that may not really be needed or that could be purchased cheaper.

Cllrs would like to see an itemised breakdown of the equipment needs.

S

A vote was called for a proposed a donation of up to £1000 subject to receiving a breakdown of the prices and the reasons why they need that particular piece of equipment, are given. 6 votes for, 1 against.

- Royal British Legion

A grant was requested to support the costs of an event to mark the Armistice.

Cllr Lewis declared an interest as a member.

CLERK

Cllrs agreed unanimously to a donation of £100.

88. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

88.1 The next meeting of the Amenities Committee will take place on 26th July, meeting at 5 p.m. at West Allotments (The Wynd entrance). Advance apologies from Cllr. Dargue and Cllr. Morrison.

88.2 Discussions have taken place with the gravedigger about the best location for the spoil and soil and have agreed that an unused area at the top of the drive can be fenced off. The proposed location was agreed. NCC have also agreed to replace shrubs in the natural burial area and spares will be purchased and kept in the same area too.

CLERK

89: PLANNING COMMITTEE

89.1: The planning report for June 2018 was noted.

Cllrs Morrison and Horn attended the County Planning Meeting for the new homes off Acklington Road and the outline application was passed. Cllr. Horn raised an issue about drainage of surface water. One of the suggested options is dispose this into the culvert running along the foot of West Cemetery and across the Allotments. Cllr. Lewis stated that we are responsible for the culvert and may need to give permission for this. Cllr. Lewis will look into this further, liaise with Cllrs Morrison and Horn. It was agreed that any correspondence to object or clarify would be sent.

CLERK

90. AGENDA ITEMS:

90.1 Request to support Rotary Way Wildflowers

Cllr. Dargue declared an interest.

ATC supported the current planting project for a 5-year period (which was paid upfront).

HL

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Cllrs are concerned that starting a new area of land will then result in two areas of land with associated costs for maintenance for both.

Although Cllrs are supportive of the new project, they would like clarification about the costs associated about the costs of the maintenance of the wild flowers already in situ.

CLERK
HL

Cllr. Weir would like confirmation of when the 5-year period for the original project will end.

It was suggested that Dr Creighton is invited for a chat about the project.

90.2 Local Transport 2019/20 Priorities

Bisley Road has been completed, however Cllr Dargue asked why the steps had not been repaired at the same time as Cllr Watson had suggested that this work would be completed at the same time. Cllr. Watson to confirm.

CLERK
CLERK

Cllr. Lewis confirmed that NCC have said we are unable to include a major town centre car park, town cycle/walkway repairs/maintenance for existing rights of way.

Cllrs are therefore required to make other suggestions and agreed three priorities as

- traffic calming measures/safer crossing in Percy Drive
- resurfacing of West Avenue
- resurfacing of Percy Street

Cllrs agreed to these priorities or to consider others that could be added.

The Clerk is to determine the date for submission.

90.3 To report on the outcome of the Amble Town Council Awards 2018

The event was very successful. There were more entries for the Secret Garden this year and Cllrs agreed that this category should continue. Cllr Lewis suggested that runners up for this category and the Civic Award should receive a crystal as is the case with other categories.

CLERK

The winner of the Civic Award has asked if it acceptable to split the donation between two charities. This was agreed.

An alternative venue may need to be discussed for future years for a number of practical reasons and to encourage participants from different wards.

CLERK

CLERK

90.4 Update on Remembrance Day arrangements

The fireworks music was suggested by Cllr Dargue and was circulated to Cllrs who agreed to the suggestions. This would be forwarded to the company who would choose excerpts.

CLERK

A meeting was held with the Ellington Colliery Band. The suggested start time is 4.30 pm for light refreshments in the Parish Hall for invited guests, which will be provided and served by ATC. The band will perform at 5.15 pm (20 mins) and will also play and march to North Bank. There will be further performance (20-25 mins) on the braid before the lighting of the beacon and fireworks.

Outstanding arrangements are:

- Floodlighting on the footbridge if needed.
- Marshalling. The Rotary have not yet responded to our request to support marshalling of

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the event. Cllr. Dargue will bring this up at the next Rotary meeting.

- The band can provide some lighting for the braid but we need to consult with the PA Operator about this. We may need to consider provisions for inclement weather, such as cadets holding umbrellas for the band

Cllr Lewis provided a draft Remembrance Day leaflet for Cllrs to review. Sodexo may be able to assist with the printing of these.

Cllr Lewis suggested that a permanent Information Board is erected in the Memorial Garden. Cllrs agreed that this was a good idea and should to be added to the next agenda for further discussion. Cllr Helen will begin to draft the content.

90.5 To seek approval to arrange a meeting with Advance Northumberland

Cllrs agreed that a meeting should be held as soon as possible as it is important that ATC has a direct dialogue.

HL

90.6 To seek approval to arrange a meeting with HfN

Cllr Weir advised that HfN management has changed and Cllr Weir would like to establish a link with them to discuss residential issues that might arise in the town in the future. Cllrs agreed to this proposal.

CLERK

90.7 To give an update on the Amble War Memorial

Meeting with Stone Technical and Blackett-Ord about the pointing of the steps which was not completed. The proposed costs to complete this work have been submitted. This work had been previously agreed but had been forgotten about by Blackett-Ord.

CLERK

90.8 To note and discuss the report from Active Northumberland

Cllrs do not feel that Active Northumberland has an understanding of the needs of the town and that there is no will to put any significant leisure/sporting funding into Amble.

CLERK

Cllrs feel there is misconception that ATC have no say in the spending of section 106 funding and its is also suggested that there will be not funding unless specific reports are done about what is needed.

Cllrs would like some clarify from the Planning Department on where we stand in S106 discussions concerning leisure and anything else that Active Northumberland is involved in.

Cllr Lewis suggested that the Cllrs read the report more fully and consider how best to respond. It may be necessary to look at how specific reports can be produced if this is a requirement.

Chair and Vice Chair to have a meeting with the Head of Planning as a matter of urgency.

91. COMMUNICATIONS:

91.1 Email from William Harris re lack of super-fast broadband and subsequent communications - noted

CLERK

91.2 Letter from Coquet Churches Together

The Clerk has already confirmed to NCT that a professional sound technician will assist with this year's event.

91.3 CAN June 2018 – noted

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91.4 Members Small Scheme Contribution towards the Peace Sculpture - noted

91.5 To note the email from Oliver Gunn re Geography NEA coursework

Cllrs agreed to direct Mr Gunn to NCC and local planning.

91.6 AONB Coastal Paths

Cllr Morrison wished to raise a query about how the funding is being spent as reported in the Northumberland Gazette. Cllrs would like to know how the money allocated to Northumberland will be spent in our area. Cllrs suggested contacting Paul Jones.

CLERK

91.7 CPRE Northumberland

Cllr Weir has been contacted by the committee of Coastal Protection of Rural Northumberland wanted to say that they are supportive our concerns on the effects of the planned developments, on the infrastructure of the area and have asked for further information on our plans to protect the area in the future. The Committee had indicated they had been involved in protection issues in the past but Cllrs could not recall this. Cllrs agreed not too progress this contact beyond an initial reply at the current time.

CLERK

91.8 Report of Demolition Work

A resident has made us aware of demolition work taking place on some land which we currently lease. Cllr Lewis has investigated the report and believes that this is work is within the rights of the tenant. A previous email from the same resident had also asked for information about the regulations and rights around bonfires in the allotments. This query was directed to the AAHS who did respond to the resident.

Cllr Morrison also reported that a resident had experienced a problem with the Coal Yard guard dog who had got out into the road. Cllrs advised that any incidents like this should be reported.

92. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

RECOMMENDATION - That the Council note the information items.

92.1 NALC Newsletter 12 June, 26 June, 3 July. Noted

92.2 Northumberland Local Plan Consultation

Cllrs were asked to send comments on the plan by the beginning of August which will be collated for further discussion at the next Council meeting.

92.3 Letter of thanks from Northumbria Police re Young Citizen Award. Noted

The additional money that was agreed by ATC if needed, was not required this year.

92.4 Notes of the meeting with Sodexo. Noted

92.5 Notes of the meeting with John Colvine of Ellington Colliery Band. Noted

CLERK

92.6 Notes of a meeting with AAHA – the meeting was postponed until 18th July.

CLLRS

92.7 Planning Permission granted in respect of the Peace Sculptures. Noted

92.8 Planning Permission granted in respect of the Listed Building Consent re bird deterrents spikes on the Amble War Memorial. Noted

92.9 Action points of the Partnership Meeting with NCC. Noted

92.10 Minutes of the meeting with NCC re Paddlers Park – to be circulated

92.11 Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting 22 June 2018. Noted

92.12 Minutes of the Parking Meeting 20 June 2018. Noted

92.13 Plans for the A1 Duelling

Cllr Horn attended the briefing and feels that proposals for access to local towns off the A1 do very little to benefit Amble. Cllrs agreed to raise concerns with the Highways Department.

CLERK

92.14 Date for the photo opportunity with Incom

Needs to take place in the next fortnight if possible.

92.15 Letter from Land Registry re Land at East Garth Avenue. Noted

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92.16 Letter from Karbon Homes. Noted

It has been reported in the Gazette that Karbon Homes are involved in developments of Amble. It is suspected that this could be the Gloster Hill development. If this is the case, a letter is to be sent to make them aware that this development is Warkworth rather than Amble.

CLERK

CLERK

93. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

93.1 The next Meeting is to be scheduled to take place on 9th August at 6 pm.

CLERK

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

94: MINUTES

94.1: Town Council meeting held 14 June 2018.

The minutes were approved from 75 – 77.

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

No further reports were given.

96. AGENDA ITEMS

96.1 Outcome of the meeting with Hay & Kilner

ATC have instructed that their decision should be carried out.

96.2 Outcome of the meeting with Rocstone

A meeting with Rocstone has taken place and they were updated on the issues facing the Council. They also agreed to give ATC a non-refundable deposit. Rocstone to be kept informed of developments as they happen.

96.3 Update on ATC Personnel Changes

Due to staff commitments, an additional part time post has been advertised for 12 hours a week. Shortlisting will take place on 13 July with interviews expected on 17th July.

96.4 Future plans for West Cemetery Compound

Councillors were asked to think of suggestions for this area of land for the next meeting.

96.5 To discuss follow up from Strategic Housing Officer

ATC requested to be kept up to date on all developments that affect Amble. The Clerk has been given contact details. The contact details of some community organisations which could be useful, would be sent.

CLLS

96.6 Update on War Memorial

A quote was received for additional works to the memorial steps. This work had initially been missed off the list before the completion certificate was issued. ATC agreed for the work to go ahead but did not agree to the preliminary costs as the works were mentioned on 3 separate occasions and still not included. Blackett Ord agreed that they would waiver those costs.

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96.7 Minutes of a meeting with Andy Crowe, Site Manager, NB Clark

A meeting was held with the site manager to raise concerns about the Gloster Hill development and its proximity to the cemetery. The site manager agreed that operations will cease during funerals. Discussion also took place around some work that would benefit the cemetery.

96.8 Paddlers Park

A meeting was held with Paul Jones and Mike Jefferies from NCC about all the ongoing problems with the park. We are waiting to receive comprehensive feedback from them following the meeting suggesting solutions, as the onus is on them as they were the project managers and invested a considerable amount in it.

Cllr Lewis suggested that the water feature could be left running for the duration of the school holidays. Cllrs agreed that this would be acceptable if this is a possibility.

CW
CLERK

The meeting ended at 9 p.m.

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
HfN – HOMES FOR NORTHUMBERLAND
CAP – COMMUNITY ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIP**

Chairs Signature.....