

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – June 2018

The Minutes of the meeting of Thursday 14 June 2018 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs Craig Weir, (Chair) Jane Dargue , Cllrs M Horn, H Lewis, J Watson, I Parks, I Hinson, C Weir, K Morrison
V Smith - Town Clerk, H Shepherd – Administrative Officer

The Chair informed that the meeting was being recorded for administrative and transparency purposes. Cllr Hinson also recorded the meeting with a personal device

Action

58. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Tracey Hinton

59. 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.

60. 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 was 1 member of the public present, joined by a second part way through the meeting.

A resident complained about the state of the bus shelter on Acklington Road, at the top of South Avenue. The Clerk to request a deep cleanse and disinfectant of this area. Also reported was the street sign of Aidan Road which has screws missing and therefore flapping in the wind. Cllr Watson to take this forward. It was queried when the building on the former Catholic School site would start. The resident was informed to discuss this with NCC as the planning authority.

CLERK

61. Paul Murphy – Shop Jacket

Mr Murphy was unable to attend the meeting and requested to rearrange to next meeting on 12 July 2018

AGENDA

62. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

62.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held 10 May 2018
From 28 – 57.4 minutes were approved.

63. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

63.1 Clerks report

The majority of works are covered within the agenda.

Chairs Signature.....

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Work has progressed on the new Data Protection Regulations. An audit of the Council's data has been carried out and an initial assessment of what is held, where it is held and why. This information has been placed on the website and will evolve as more work is done on this.

Planning Permission for the peace sculpture is still out to public consultation.

The Council is waiting a decision 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. ATC staff have attended the Introduction to Local Councils training on Monday 11 June 2018. The next priority going forward is to collate the report regarding NCC and Paddlers Park.

64. CHAIRMANS COMMUNICATION and REPORT

64.1 Chairman's Report

Cllr Weir discussed the agenda papers in that the reason there are numerous attachments sent in advance is that reading can be done prior to the meeting to make best use of meeting time and requested all Cllrs to read the reports before the meeting.

Cllr Weir attended 2 mayoral functions, a meeting hosted by the Civic Head of Northumberland County Council and also the AYP appreciation day. He has also attended meetings with the Clerk and Vice Chair: Partnership meetings with NCC, Cemetery meetings, WW1, CCT, Annual Parish Meeting, CAN, Parking, Business Club, Sustainable Transport, Neighbourhood Planning, Hay and Kilner as well as being involved in litterpicks. Cllr Weir also made members aware of the impending filming by TV show VERA.

64.2: Vice Chairman Report

The Vice- Chair echoed the meetings which Cllr Weir attended and also attended the unveiling of the Memorial Plaque on the Harbour for all those who lost their lives when RAF Search and Rescue craft Pinnacle 1386 foundered. It also acknowledged those who tried to rescue them. A very interesting and lovely memorial. Work continues clearing out the cemetery storage areas.

65 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

65.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

Cllr Clark received complaints regarding the grass not being cut on the Lord Mayor's Field. After making some initial investigations the grass was finally cut on 4 June 2018.

Cllr Clark also raised the issue regarding the lack of the Super-Fast Broadband in the new Persimmons development. Cllr Clark had met senior planning colleagues and looked at the planning information from both applications of 2010 and 2014 and there was no planning breach. The recent fly tipping in the area had been reported, although when officers went to clear it, they could not locate it. It remains a mystery what happened to it.

Cllr Clark continues with his surgeries.

Street lighting issues have been reported in Anderson Crescent and Newburgh Street.

Issues reported from Hauxley include second homes, parking, over grown hedges damaging cars driving past.

Cllr Weir addressed the Broadband issue as this had also been reported to the ATC office. He reported that the lack of broadband and access to other services in rural areas was being discussed through the Borderlands Agenda.

Cllr Hinson queried if NCC would refresh the paint on H-Lines on roads. It was reported that this was no longer an NCC policy and they would be unable to do this.

65.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

Cllr Watson alerted members to the forthcoming Bunkhouse planning application will be discussed

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next week at planning committee, as well as the Hauxley caravan park application. Cllr Watson has submitted his LTP priorities, including Guilden Road to Warkworth but this had been turned down.

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

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

Cllr Hinton attended the ADT meeting, a report is to follow.

67. FINANCIAL REPORT:

67.1: To consider voucher numbers 42 – 87 for payment and receipt vouchers 20 – 47.

There was a query on voucher number 62 and 85. It was reported that this payment had been duplicated but that this would be kept on file for next year's subscription. The puffin festival collection figures were queried. It was reported that there may be a typing error within the figures. Payment and receipt vouchers were approved. The new BACS system was working well. The bunting was yet to be delivered due to issues with the courier.

67.2 Bank Reconciliation

All bank account balance accordingly to 31 May 2018.

67.3 YTD figures

The year to date figures are to be recoded. The Clerk to reallocate insurances and reallocate some payments from the earmarked funds. The Clerk to investigate where the remaining balance from last year's accounts for the Events Committee now sits. The earmarked funds are available for people to view and will also be published on the website and in The Ambler.

CLERK

67.4 Earmarked Funds Reallocations

A meeting had taken place with Gillian Turner, Cllrs Weir and Lewis with the Clerk to reallocate the earmarked funds with last year's residual amounts. These are available to view on request.

67.5 Grant requests

There were no grant requests to consider.

67.6 Fundraising Trip to Borneo

A request was received into the office for assistance in fund raising for a student to travel to Borneo to carry out some volunteer work. The Council agreed to match fund the student up to a total of £100.00. The Clerk to draft a letter.

CLERK

67.7 Young Citizen Awards

The Council usually supports this award with a donation of up to £100 to help with trophies and awards. After meeting with Northumbria Police it was brought to the attention of the Council that the future of the award could be in jeopardy due to a lack of sponsors. ATC had been approached to offer further assistance if required. The Council agreed that as this is such a worthy cause that it would look favourably on supporting further if needed and proposed an amount of up to £250 if required. The Clerk to draft a letter.

CLERK

67.8 Expression of thanks to Gillian Turner

Discussion took place on having some further training and support from Gillian Turner. It was agreed, at the Clerk's discretion, that Gillian Turner would be asked to support Council business on an adhoc basis. This would also be to assist in Clerking queries as well as finance. There has already been finance allocated within the budget for consultancy but this would be monitored carefully. The Clerk to draft a letter.

CLERK

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68. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

68.1 The minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 31 May 2018 from items 53 – 60 were approved.

69: PLANNING COMMITTEE

69.1: The planning report for May 2018 was noted.

The deadline for the Broomhill Street application was 20 June. Members are required to get responses to the Clerk before that date.

Cllrs Morrison and Horn would attend the site visit regarding the Bunkhouse application.

70. AGENDA ITEMS:

70.1 Decision regarding Peace Sculpture Wording and Community Engagement Process

There are 100-120 characters per arch available for inscription. Discussion took place on the final choices to be advertised. It was agreed that there should be two for peace and two for service. The public would then be asked to choose one from each which could leave room for individual words also. The leaflet is to be inserted in the Ambler with a tear off slip to be returned. A quote has been received from Azure for A5 leaflets, including the inserting into The Ambler. There would be a delivery cost too- these were agreed. There would also be an online poll. The Clerk to proceed.

CLERK

70.2 Amble Town Council Awards – arrangements

The Clerk to add the time of the ceremony to the poster.

Shortlisting from Cllrs is to be in by 27 June as the judge is being escorted around the town by Cllrs Parks and Horn on 2 July 2018.

There is to be a maximum of 30 shortlisted and 15 of those will be visited by the judge. There will be a winner from each ward and a runner up, then highly commended / commended.

CLERK

70.3 Retrospective Newspaper Approval

The newspaper was approved.

70.4 Paddlers Park

A meeting took place today with Cllr Weir, Lewis and Clerk to discuss the options available regarding Paddlers Park. A meeting is to be requested with NCC and a report is to be drafted outlining the history of the case. A letter to be drafted to Cllr Kath Homer, Paul Jones and Mike Jeffrey. The Clerk to proceed.

CLERK

71. COMMUNICATIONS:

71.1 ATC Books to British Library Request

As the ATC books had an ISBN number, it is a legal requirement that a copy of these be sent to the British Library. The Clerk had sent a copy of Amble Past and Present, ARTY and reflections.

71.2 NALC Enews 24 May 2018, 5 June 2018 – noted

71.3 Introduction of Parking Restriction in Amble - noted

71.4 Seafarers UK – Merchant Navy Day 3rd September - noted

71.5 Collection of Postcards – Request to send postcards of Amble

Unfortunately, there are no cards available to post. The Clerk to confirm

CLERK

71.6 Introduction of a 20mph Speed Restriction in Amble - noted

71.7 Service of Commemoration 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day, Hexham Abbey. Representatives to attend to be decided. – Cllrs to confirm with the Clerk if they wish to attend

ALL

71.8 Local Transport Plan Feedback

Cllrs felt frustration regarding the town centre car parking as there has been efforts to try and secure this through the corporate parking programme but to no avail.

CLERK

71.9 Northumberland Local Plan Consultation 4 July – 15 August 2018 – noted. The Clerk to circulate the dates and venues when known.

71.10 Letter from Mrs Joan Shepherd regarding the West Cemetery Fountain Area.

A letter received from Mrs Shepherd requested that the tarmac around the West Cemetery Fountain be patch repaired. A letter to be drafted to Mrs Shepherd to explain that the Council have already tried patch repairing that area but it is not adequate, the gravel has been put there

CLERK

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as a temporary measure until the Council can afford to resurface the whole area. Additionally, to remind Mrs Shepherd that if she carries out any cleaning of the fountain as mentioned in her letter, it is at her own risk and also that the cemetery is not staffed anymore should she have an accident. The Clerk to thank Mrs Shepherd for her offer to financially assist but to return the cheque donated by Mrs Shepherd.

71.11 Invitation to AONB event

Cllrs Kate Morrison and Martin Horn to attend. The Clerk to confirm.

CLERK

71.12 Request from NCC to allow filming on The Braid 21st – 25th June

A request was received to ascertain if there would be any issues filming the TV show VERA in the braid area of Amble. Amble Town Council has no objections to this and details had been passed to Warkworth Parish Council.

71.13 Invitation to attend the JCSC Create Exhibition

Councillors were invited to attend the JCSC Create Exhibition on 12 July. Although this clashes with the next Full Council meeting, members would try their best to attend part of the event. The Clerk to confirm.

CLERK

71.14 Remembrance Day – Silhouettes

ATC had previously considered these but declined to take up the offer. The Clerk to forward the information to the local schools.

CLERK

71.15 Thank you from Northumberland Pride

Cllr Dargue expressed thanks from Northumberland Pride for the support that ATC has given them.

71.1 Tesco Site – communications regarding management of site.

The Clerk has been involved in conversations with Tesco regarding the litter problem of the Tesco site. Tesco had tidied the area and were happy to arrange a meeting and also happy to set up a 6 monthly maintenance programme until the future of the site is decided.

73. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

RECOMMENDATION - That the Council note the information items.

73.1 Minutes of the Neighbourhood Planning meeting held on 24th May 2018. Noted

73.2 Minutes of the Sustainable Transport meeting held on 24th May 2018. Noted

73.3 Notes of the WW1 meeting held on 14 May 2018.

Noted. A meeting with Ellington Colliery Band has been arranged for 29 June at 2pm. After discussing music choices with the fireworks company, they have said that they can set the fireworks to any music of our choice. If Cllrs have any suggestions please email them to Cllr Dargue. The Clerk to contact Serena Coulter about poppies. A professional PA supplier has been booked for the full day's events.

CLERK

73.4 Notes of the Annual Amble Parish Meeting on 14 May 2018. Noted

73.5 Notes of the Planning Committee held on 29 May 2018. Noted

73.6 Notes of SLA Follow Up meeting with NCC on 1 June 2018. Noted

73.7 Notes from Meeting with Insp Liz Hall. Noted

73.8 Sealed Bids for surplus equipment and viewing arrangements

Sealed bids for the surplus equipment at the West Cemetery have been invited from members of the public. The deadline for bids in 18 June 2018. The equipment will be sold as seen to the highest bidder.

73.9 Notice of an application for registration of a person in adverse possession.

The Council received notification of persons claiming adverse possession of a parcel of land at Eastgarth Avenue. The Council had no objection to this and were not aware of any further information relating to this piece of land.

74. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

74.1 The next Meeting is to be scheduled to take place on 12th July 2018 at 6.00pm.

Under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public will be

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excluded from the Meeting during consideration of the following items on the Agenda due to their sensitive nature.

PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE

75: MINUTES –

75.1: Town Council meeting held 10 May 2018.
The minutes were approved.

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

76.1 CAN meeting notes

Cllr Weir gave a report of the discussions held at the recent CAN meeting. The meeting focused on health of children in Northumberland where many are classed as disadvantaged. Further discussions with local schools to be set up.

76.2 Business Club

Cllr Weir attended the Business Club meeting which was also attended by Richard Wearmouth. Discussion took place around the new structure of Arch and the new name of Advance Northumberland. The meeting also discussed the future of the High Street and took into consideration some of the aspects of the sustainable travel report. The Clerk to arrange a meeting with Richard Wearmouth.

CLERK

Cllr Weir was also approached regarding what the Council are doing in terms of leisure facilities for the town.

76.3 NTC Parking Offer

No formal agreement with NTC has been reached as yet. Cllr Weir to keep ATC updated.

CW

77. AGENDA ITEMS

77.1 Tenancy Update

Notice has not been served on the tenant at this time. An additional meeting with Hay and Kilner is required. Council approval was granted to continue with the negotiations.

CLERK

77.2 Proposed Review of All Amble Town Council Leases

A review of all ATC leases is to be completed with a legal advisor in due course.

77.2 Discuss Lightning Conductor Contract Arrangements

It was agreed to proceed with a 5 year contract with Stone Technical Services. The Clerk to proceed.

CLERK

77.3 Decision regarding Reflections Reprint and Cost per copy

It was agreed to proceed with a reprint but to increase the charge per copy to £4 due to costs. The Clerk to proceed.

CLERK

77.4 Clock Tower Sound System Update

A professional company would be employed to operate the sound system on Remembrance Day Sunday this year. The company has also agreed to providing the sound work for fireworks display free of charge. Cllr Weir to discuss further works with ADT and report back. The Council, as a community gesture, are amenable to paying half, but not all of the cost.

CW

77.5 Gordon Street Planning Application

The Clerk to write to NCC to make them aware of the potential planning issues relating to this strip of land. The Clerk to copy in Cllr Terry Clark to this response.

CLERK

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77.6 Civic Award Nominations

After some careful consideration the Council decided Adult and Junior Award Category Winners. Cllrs Watson, Weir, Parks and Dargue declared an interested but did not take part in the decision.

77.7 High St consultation CCT

Cllr Weir met with Michael Black of Arch whilst at the CCT meeting who was able to give an overview around what is happening with Coquet Enterprise Park. Further information is to follow.

77.8 Ongoing Training

This item was covered above. It was agreed to approach Gillian Turner for further consultancy work, hours as per Clerk's discretion.

77.9 Paddlers Park – CCTV

There had been some damage to the Paddlers Park play area carried out over the weekend and numerous complaints about the CCTV not working. Stills from the CCTV were then placed on social media in retaliation of incorrect complaints. The Council felt permission should have been requested. The Clerk to write a letter to the supplier to address the issue.

CLERK

77.10 Julie Young in attendance – Strategic Housing Officer – NCC

Julie Young attended the meeting in her role as Strategic Housing Officer with NCC. Her role is financed by the Home Office and is to work alongside the asylum seek and refugee team at NCC. Julie Young requested the Council's discretion on the future plans discussed. In 2015, the government requested all Local Authorities to allocate some housing to those displaced due to the conflict in Syria. NCC allocated a total of 48 families across Northumberland over a period of 4 years. Currently 20 families have been placed. The families can only be placed in Council owned stock. Northumbria Police have been made aware of residencies and do not anticipate any issues.

Chairs Signature.....