

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 2019

The Minutes of the meeting of 14 February 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.

221. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Christine Butler

222. CENTRAL WARD VACANCY

The Clerk reported there had been no call to hold an election and that the Co-option was therefore being advertised.

223. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

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

Cllr Watson declared an interest in WHC

224. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

Cllr Weir had received an email from Mr Brunton requesting a private meeting. The Clerk to request some dates from Mr Brunton.

Clerk

225. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

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

226. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

226.1 Clerk's Report

The Clerks report was circulated in advance and all items noted and accepted.

227. CHAIRMANS COMMUNICATION and REPORT

227.1. Chairman's Report

Cllr Weir circulated the notes of the TPLWG in advance of the meeting. Additional meetings included a Burns Night event, the opening of The Amble Inn, CAN, SLA, Parking, Events Committee, JCSC, Kompan, Masonic Lodge, Bill Grimsey. Cllr Weir has also been approached by Harbour Lights Church and is awaiting a call back.

227. Vice Chairman Report

Cllr Lewis attended all meetings with Cllr Weir as well as meeting with fencers and NCC at the West Cemetery. Quotes for the work required were requested however NCC advised that it would be better if they were able to coordinate with the fencers. A sum of £2000 had been delegated to the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk for this work.

Chairs Signature.....

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Clerk

228. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

228.1 To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

Cllr Clark attended the Local Area Council meeting for the Former TIC / New Micro Brewery. There are some licensing issues to iron out. The Council are concerned about people wandering into the memorial gardens and drinking refreshments from the Micro-Brewery. Further clarity is needed on the "take out" meaning reported in the licensing documents. There is a bi-law which prevents anyone from drinking in the street but the boundary of his lease needs to be clarified. Cllr Clark to request clarity from licensing. Clerk to write a letter to Jake Castleman to remind of the by law and Council's concerns. Clarity is also needed on who will be looking after the toilets and what the opening and closing hours will be. The Council requires the toilets opening hours to be as they are now. This is not clear. The Clerk to write a letter to Assets at NCC.

Clerk

Cllr Clark has also been dealing with complaints from HfN tenants. There have also been reports of speeding on Links Road, Hauxley, Radcliffe and Harbour Road from off road motorbikes. Signal Cottage continues to be a target for vandalism, theft and fly tipping. Unfortunately as this is private land it is a police matter.

Cllr Clark reported that the new families have settled in fine and are integrating with the area.

228.2. To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

Cllr Watson reported that WHC would prefer the new litter bins to be placed on the pavement at The Harbour Village or Leazes Street as there is concern of losing car parking spaces and the type of litter being disposed. ATC was discussing the possibility of sharing costs for wheelie bin housing with WHC with NCC providing the wheelie bins for free. The locations suggested by WHC have been tried before and have not been successful as people will not walk to the bins. Cllr Watson to write to the Clerk with their response. The Clerk to let NCC know that the new bins cannot be inside the car park. ATC will provide some more at the present location in due course. Cllr Watson had received comments regarding the open spaces identified within the Local Plan. Cllr Watson will report back when he has further clarity.

Clerk

The meeting with NCC officers and JCSC has been arranged for 14 March 2019 at 9am at County Hall. Work is continuing to try and get some primary S106 monies to be able to be used for years 5 and 6. The Clerk has circulated the JCSC notes previously.

The new building on WHC is new huts. The fish shack is also being extended.

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

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

Additional meetings have been attended by Cllr Weir, including a meeting with NTC, ADT and Bill Grimsey. The NTC meeting on 11 February 2019 reported how wonderful it was to be in Amble and how they have been welcomed by the community. The Panto was a huge sold out success and the cinema is doing well. Thanks were given to Jim Donnelly for helping out with this. NTC are struggling with funding. The process of buying the building is almost complete and then major renovations will be needed.

Amble Youth Project welcomed a new trustee, Ian Williams. They are updating safeguarding training with Voices. Karl Brunton has nominated AYP as his charity for this year. There are 4 new staff for Monday and Friday drop ins and Friday Night Live takes place at JCSC sports hall. The café will be open 11-1pm on Saturdays from beginning of March. AYP also received £750 from the Rotary from their xmas collection.

Amble Development Trust – A positive meeting was held to discuss the memorial gardens. Andy Sim has temporarily taken over the role of Chair.

NALC – Cllr Parks previously circulated his notes. Main things to report were a lack of communication from NCC and the unfair burden of charges for events / road closures etc. NCC have allocated some funds to the Community Chest to counteract this pressure, but Town/Parish

Chairs Signature.....

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Councils cannot access this.

230. FINANCIAL REPORT:

230.1 To consider voucher numbers for payment 329 - 368 and receipt vouchers 150 – 166 – The receipts and payments were approved. It was queried why the figure from Azure had been a minus. This was due to a credit being placed on file and was for accounting purposes.

230.2. Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation was approved

230.3. YTD figures

The Clerk and Councillor Lewis met to amend some figures. The Clerk to investigate No 39- utility charges at the West Cemetery- which seems very high given that there is no one on site any more.

230.4 Grant requests

It was noted that there was only £321 left in the grants budget for this financial year.

Tiny Woods Academy

The Clerk to write to request that they defer this application to the next financial year and itemise specific items in their request.

Amble East End Walking Football

The Clerk to write to request that they defer this application to the next financial year and itemise specific items in their request.

Amble East End Juniors

The Clerk to write to request that they defer this application to the next financial year and itemise specific items in their request.

Retrospective approval for Alnwick and District Sports Awards

Approved. Cllr Weir to attend the ceremony on 21 February 2019

Alnwick Bailiffgate Museum and Gallery – Letter request only

The Clerk to write letter to request that they reapply within the next financial year.

Northumbria Army Cadet Force

The Clerk to write to suggest that they reapply in the next financial year as they had already had a grant in this year.

Alnwick Junior Triathlon Club

The Council agreed to support their request with a donation of £150 for safety infrastructure.

Community Action Northumberland

The Council agreed to support their donation request but to let them know that they will contribute in the next financial year as they already have funding in place until 31 March 2019.

The Clerk to add a list of generic causes to the AGM to be considered for approval on block.

231. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

231.1 The minutes of the Amenities Committee were approved.

232: PLANNING COMMITTEE

232.1 To note planning outcomes for February 2019 – Noted

232.2 To nominate and agree a Vice Chair of Planning Committee

Cllr Lewis agreed to act as Vice Chair until the AGM

233. AGENDA ITEMS:

233.1 Publication of the Northumberland Local Plan

Cllr Weir and Lewis attended the drop in sessions of the Local Plan. They both identified errors in some of the land designated and identified as open spaces but officers at the drop in session

Chairs Signature.....

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could not help. They advised ATC to write to NCC with their concerns. There is also clarity needed on statutory and permissive allotments and the compound area has never been used as allotment land or burial land, but is included in the map from NCC. Cllrs agreed that Cllr Lewis to augment her document as outlined to them, Clerk to amend the map and send to NCC.

Cllr Dargue also raised the issue of Amble being placed within the South East locality whose housing targets are much higher than the North. The South East figures are 9000 and North are 3390. Cllr Watson assured that these numbers were indicative minimums and that Amble has already reached its quota for housing. A planning reason must be given as to why Amble should be in the North. Looking at the town settlement boundary, there is hardly anywhere left to build.

Clerk

The footpath adjacent to JCSC South Avenue & with closed steps from Coquet Grange estate – has never been an adopted right of way. The Council had suggested that Hindhaugh Homes reinstate the footpath as a desired safer cycle/pedestrian route to JCSC Acklington Road.

233.2 To ratify the 2019/2020 Cemetery Fees and Charges

There is to be a 5% increase on the standard rates of interments and rights which still leaves Amble below the average costs. This was ratified and Funeral Directors would be informed.

233.3 To nominate and agree a representative on the Events Committee

Cllr Weir agreed to be the Events Committee rep until the AGM. It was suggested that the committee revisit whether the savings from VAT gained warranted still being part of ATC as if a separate group they could therefore be eligible for more grants. Cllrs Weir and Morrison to look at this together.

Clerk

233.4 To discuss request from Amble Food Bank

Amble Food Bank has been approached by large supermarkets with offers of quantities of food. They are looking for a venue where they can cook meals for members of the community. The Council suggested they contact Coquet Churches Together.

233.5 To approve the purchase of new / replacement play equipment for Paddlers Park

Cllrs Weir, Lewis and Morrison with the Clerk met with a play area representative. 3 options were identified as possible solutions for Paddlers Park. It was felt that option one fitted in more with the overall aim of the park and fitness trail with family involvement. The costs of this was £13600. The Council have asked NCC to contribute 50% of the cost and this has been agreed. Any compensation from the original supplier would then stay with NCC. The costs of supply and installation are included within this cost and there is an 8 week lead in time. The original supplier is to be asked by NCC if they want their old equipment back. The Clerk to ask for a price for turf rather than seed as experience has shown that the seed does not get the chance to grow. It was understood that due to the location of the park that this reduced the warranties available. Areas within 200m from the sea are subject to a reduced warranty of 2.5 years with additional spare parts at 2 years. The company also has a spares policy and is currently working up a maintenance agreement whereby customers can buy in to that. The Clerk to send NCC the recommendations for maintenance once received so that operatives know how to look after the equipment.

Clerk

A complaint was raised about operative driving on the grass links off Panhaven Road to empty dog bins. This is to be addressed when identifying new locations for new bins.

233.6 Feedback from meeting with Bill Grimsey

The Clerk to write to Bill Grimsey with a request to meet the Council and to find out his thoughts if Amble is headed in the right direction. Community active leaders and interested parties are also to be invited.

233.6 Rental Increases – this item was moved forward from private

It was agreed to increase the allotment rents by 2% to cover inflation.

Clerk

233.7 Headerboard – The Clerk to write a letter of thanks for the FoC refurbishment.

234. COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairs Signature.....

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- 234.1 Bus Stop Improvements – A1 Northumberland** – noted
- 234.2 Introduction email from Coastal Care** - noted
- 234.3 Email re Grouse Shooting** - noted Clerk
- 234.4 Approval to relocate flag pole had been given and the flag pole has now been relocated
- 234.5 Parish Cemetery Double Charging** – The double charging refund from NCC for this year is £403
- 234.6 Letter re Rent Review from ADT** - noted
- 234.7 Letter from ADT to discuss Memorial Gardens** - noted
- 234.8 Open letter from NALC Chairman Cllr Sue Baxter** – noted
- 234.9 Northumberland Town Investment Programme/Future High Street Fund Briefing** – noted – ATC are not eligible.
- 234.10 Invitation to AGM 2018 - Citizens Advice Northumberland** – ATC did not attend
- 234.11 Update on Aln Valley Railway** – noted
- 234.12 Textile Recycling Banks on behalf of Scope** – the Clerk to respond to contact NCC
- 234.13 Email from Walter Turnbull re parking on Bay View** – The Clerk to respond and refer the complaint to NCC Highways as this area is an official turning circle and not a parking area.
- 234.14 Chairs invitation to Swan Song Charity Event** – Cllr Weir to attend. ATC to finance at a cost of £40.
- 234.15 Town Centre Heritage Digital Signs** – Noted Clerk
- 234.16 Healthwatch Northumberland Annual Survey** – Noted. Members to complete as individuals if they wish Clerk
- 234.17 Letter from John McDermot** – The Clerk to write to state that ATC do not normally support capital projects. If they wish to apply they would need to use the standard application form. The Clerk to also suggest he contacts County Cllrs Watson and Clark and the Community Chest. Clerk
- 235. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:** Clerk
- 235.1 NALC Enews 16/01, 17/01, 24/01** - noted
- 235.2 NALC Social Media Policy** - noted
- 235.3 Coastal Care February Activities** - noted
- 235.4 PAT testing 2019-2020** - complete
- 235.5 To notes the minutes of the meeting with JCSC** - noted
- 235.6 To read and note the disposal guidance on Local Authority assets** - noted
- 235.8 To note the recycled paper costs comparison** - the costs are the same as non recycled, The Clerk to obtain a sample, test how it prints in the printer and bring back to next meeting.
- 235.9 Life ring positions in Amble Parish** - An NCC survey ascertained that the life rings in Amble were adequate.
- 235.10 Notes from SLA partnership meeting on 15 January 2019** - Noted
- 236. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** Clerk
- 236.1 The next Meeting is to be scheduled to take place on 14 March 2019 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

237: MINUTES –

237.1: To approve the Town Council minutes of 10 January 2019 items 218 – 222

The minutes were approved

237.2: To approve the Amenities minutes of 31 January- approved

Chairs Signature.....

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

None

239. AGENDA ITEMS

239.1 To approve a quarterly increase for a staff salary

The quarterly increase was agreed.

Members were made aware of some potential future staffing implications and approval was sought and agreed to enter into discussions with staff or advertise as appropriate.

Additionally, discussions took place regarding the Council paying voluntary contributions to those staff pensions who do not have qualifying earnings. The Council agreed that should those staff request to join the scheme, Council would not contribute at this stage.

It was agreed that the current Council contribution for those eligible staff would remain in place only if those staff made at least the minimum contribution for the scheme and did not use the employer's contribution to offset this.

239.2 Update on meeting with ADT re memorial gardens

The costs associated with the transference of the memorial gardens was discussed. A sum of £1000 was delegated to oversee this transaction. As requested by ADT, it was also agreed to pay ADT's reasonable legal costs in addition to that figure.

239.3 To note the latest update from Hay and Kilner

A meeting with Hay and Kilner to discuss documentation will be arranged. A provisional meeting for members on 5th March at 6pm was arranged.

Other parties had contacted Hay and Kilner who are formulating a response and will send it to ATC before sending on.

239.4 Update on meeting with Masonic Lodge

Trustees of the Masonic Lodge had requested a meeting with ATC. Prior to the meeting with ATC they received reassurances which addressed their concerns

240. INFORMATION ITEMS

240.1 Notes from Parking and Traffic Group – noted

ACRONYMS

NCC – NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL;

CCT – COASTAL COMMUNITIES TEAM

CAN – COMMUNITY ACTION NORTHUMBERLAND;

ATC – AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL

Chairs Signature.....