

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – November 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 9 November 2017 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs J Dargue (Chair), I Hinson, M Horn, H Lewis, K Morrison, J Watson, C Weir, I Parks, V Smith
Town Clerk

County Cllr T Clark

J Willoughby- Northumberland Gazette.

There were 4 members of the public in attendance, Mr Terry Barton, Mr John Bird & Mr Michael Walters and one other.

Northumbria Police were represented by Sergeant Ian Foster.

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

Action

121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk had received apologies from Cllr T Hinton. The apologies were agreed.

122. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

122.1 It was agreed that declarations of interest would be declared as they come up in the agenda

123. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

Sergeant Foster informed the meeting with regards to the staffing levels of police in Amble. Currently there are 2 x PCs and 2 PCOs and this has been the level for a number of years now. Amble Town Council were keen to stress that although we have CCTV now that we did not want it to replace officers on the beat and the public presence of the police in the town. Sergeant Foster reported that as well as Neighbourhood police there is also a 24/7 response team, based at Alnwick. These teams cover from Amble to Elsdon including Berwick and Widdrington and if required support can be drawn in from other areas. He agreed that public engagement is part of what the Neighbourhood Officers do and acknowledged that at times this is not always felt viable to the public. Cllr Watson said that he often saw a police presence in the town and felt that Amble was getting a good service. Amble Town Council acknowledged that services were stretched and were aware of the budget constraints affecting all police forces nationwide. Sergeant Foster said that the bikes that were given to them will be out to use more and this would be encouraged by his team. Cllr Weir reported that a number of complaints had been received about the position of the emergency phone (located on the side of the Fourways2 building) He reported concern that it was not confidential and may not always be safe. There was suggestion to relocate the phone up the ramp so that callers would have more privacy and be sheltered from the elements. Sergeant Foster agreed to take this back and explained that they have looked at ways of freeing up front line officers and this way of report was part of that.

Discussion took place around response times and how calls were graded. Sergeant Foster explained that calls are graded according to risk using a system called THRIVE which uses various factors and is a more thorough system. Response times were discussed, and it was reported that response times take into account where the officers are travelling from and these response times are averaged out to enable reporting. As these figures are force wide, it was not possible to inform on Amble's statistics. If a specific incident was required further investigate, Sergeant Foster agreed to look into it. Sergeant Foster updated Councillors on crime in the area over the last month. The Clerk is to send the response statistics to Councillors.

CLERK

Mr John Bird attended the meeting to discuss the Village Green Deregistration. He was concerned that the application had already gone to the Planning Inspectorate and that

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Warkworth Parish Council had not been made aware of this. He referred to an article in the Northumberland Gazette where it was stated that if approved that the application would require a full application and a public consultation. He felt it would be difficult to oppose and felt that this was the worst place to mix cars with people, caravans and cyclists. He also shared concerns if it was approved how would it be policed to ensure it was only being used at appropriate times. He suggested possible other locations for a car park including the Industrial Estate and behind the Shorebase Trust. He urged Amble Town Council to protect this area that was given to the public for recreational use.

Mr Terry Barton agreed with the comments made by Mr John Bird and had attended a previous meeting to voice his concerns. He expressed concern regarding the damage that would be done by splitting the braid, over or across, also the Amble History Trail and cycle route and asked why to spend all this money on a temporary solution. He felt this idea was ill-conceived and would not be supported by the public. This is a traffic free area for the public to enjoy, he acknowledged that another car park is needed but not here.

Cllr Dargue explained that as a Town Council we had not been consulted directly and as a parking group, we had not been consulted directly. As a parking group, which is attended by representatives of ATC, NCC and the Business Club, this was only one of many options that were being explored and was an absolute last resort. The Parking Group are looking at all options available and no decision has been made. It was agreed at this stage to move agenda item 132.1 to be discussed at this stage of the meeting.

Cllr Watson corrected reports and stated that this is actually Warkworth Village Green and that discussions around parking spaces have been ongoing for a number of years and that it has always been clear that this is a last resort. Although some other areas have been suggested, the sites are not owned by NCC. In terms of responsibility it would be NCCs responsibility to maintain and look after it and measures would be put in place to ensure pedestrian safety. Cllr Watson felt that we should not rule out a plan for this area but a plan that works as Amble grows.

Cllr Weir agreed with the proposal as a temporary solution only. At present there is car parking on the industrial estate, but this was felt it was too far from the town centre. Cllr Weir did not agree with this as a permanent solution. Cllr Horn was concerned that even with this new position proposed on the Braid that it would be too far for some people to be able to walk and suggested an area closer to the bridge. Cllr Dargue said that this area had already been looked at but was not suitable. Cllr Lewis also corrected the name as being Warkworth and not Amble Braid and also stated that the document was incorrect in saying that it had been used extensively for the Puffin Festival. It was used only once for the Puffin Festival and this was at NCC insistence. Cllr Lewis strongly opposed this proposal. In order to do a land swap there must be a gain provided to the public, the public already have free access to this area so therefore is not a gain.

CLERK

The Chair called a vote, results of which were: Oppose 4, endorse 3, abstain 1. Amble Town Council to submit an objection to the above proposal and would continue to explore alternative options. Amble Town Council are not opposed to the general idea of temporary car parking in that area but will continue to explore further but retain this as a last resort option.

Mr Michael Walters queried whether the relief road from the new development at Acklington Road had been agreed. Cllr Watson explained that the relief road had been agreed but exact details were not known yet. Both developers were in talks to finalise details.

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124. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

124.1: To consider the minutes of the meeting held 12th October 2017

Items 103 – 121.4 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

108. CLERK'S REPORT:

RECOMMENDATION – That the Council notes the contents of the report and consider actions were necessary. A copy will be circulated with the agenda papers.

125.1: Neighbourhood Planning meeting notes

The notes were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Lewis queried how the next steps were going to be achieved and asked if there was a perception that ATC would do it all? Cllr Dargue explained that a joint handout would be produced outlining all the pros and cons associated with it and it was made clear during the meeting that ATC would not be taking a lead and it would be a joint effort. It was not agreed at the meeting that we would proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan but it was an initial meeting and it was felt by all that further discussions were needed before any agreement was made. The Clerk awaits to hear from David English. If agreement was reached it would then be at that point that public support would be ascertained.

CLERK

CLERK

125.2 Report from meeting with Fresh Air Fitness 31 October 2017

The notes were circulated prior to the meeting. The outcome of the meeting was positive with recommendations to replace the double air walker with a newer model and repair existing damage to other equipment. The Clerk awaits to hear confirmation from Fresh Air Fitness.

125.3 Informed of new appointment to all organisations

The clerk sought approval to inform other organisations of the change in personnel. This was agreed. Cllr Watson requested that although he agreed with both recent appointments that he would like any further appointments to come to Full Council for a decision before an offer is made.

125.4 Letter of support for Town Centre Car Park

A letter of support for a Town Centre Car Park has been sent. As yet there has been no acknowledgement.

125.5 Richard McKenzie – NCC Signage

Works around signage has progressed. An amended price of £3298.46 was agreed and an invoice is expected.

125.6 War Memorial Fund Raising Recognition

Letters have gone out to members of the public who have donated to the War Memorial Restoration Fund, thanking them and requesting that they contact the council to let them know of their links with Amble so these can be added to a memorial for future generations to look back on.

125.7 Dog Fouling Report

NCC have been requested to attend Paddlers Park at various times to ensure that members of the public are adhering to the rules and seeing a visible presence.

125.8 NCC have been contacted and have been requested to be mindful of the bus shelter and planter outside JCSC when development starts.

125.9 A meeting with Cllr Dargue and MP Anne Marie Trevelyan has been requested.

125.10 Contact has been made with schools requested information on how the new developments in Amble will have an impact on their capacity. A response has been received from JCSC.

A letter has gone out to all who have allowed us to place CCTV cameras on their buildings explaining that the maintenance and costs will be covered by ATC although in the past they had been kind enough to cover the electricity costs. If they no longer wished to do that then to let ATC know. A separate letter was sent to ADT explaining that ATC would cover the

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electricity costs of the new camera if they wished.

126. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

126.1: Chairman

The Chair met with students who recently raised money taking part in a sponsored walk around the newly re-opened Hauxley Nature Reserve. Monies raised contributed towards Amble's memorial Clock Tower funding drive amongst other things.

The Chair was also presented a cheque by Peter Proctor-Cannon and met with him for a photograph in the town square to mark the fact that he has now raised over £3000 towards the clock tower repairs and conservation. Thanks, and huge appreciation here also to the many others who have raised funds and contributed towards this great fundraising effort. In addition to these presentations the Chair has been involved in talks with local parishes around a Neighbourhood Plan and met with David Nisbet from JCSC to discuss arrangements for a local Democracy Day and other school related issues and joint ventures.

126.2 Vice Chairman

Cllr Weir attended various meetings with Cllr Dargue.

127 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

127.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Clark:

Cllr Watson to provide Cllr Clarke with a Remembrance Day Wreath if available.

Cllr Clark reported that his latest surgery was very well attended. Residents expressed concerns with parking in Church Street – Cllr Clark was advised to contact Ruth Bendell.

Cllr Clark reported speeding problems on Church Street from buses and wagons and there have been some comments regarding the 20mph implementation.

There have been complaints regarding an overgrown cherry tree at Leslie Drive.

Residents have been asking when the street lighting programme will be complete and have requested an additional light at Wellwood Street / Northumbria Terrace. Any additional street lighting would need to be paid for by the Town Council or come from the members small schemes budget.

The missing drain covers from Lindisfarne Road area have been replaced.

Cllr Clark has secured funding for further carved figures for Amble Links First School.

A resident reported that he has slipped on moss outside of the TSB on Queen Street. This had been reported.

127.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson:

Cllr Watson said that although a link road between the two new housing developments had been agreed, that a lot of work was needed to figure out the exact details. Cllr Watson suggested using some of the 15% affordable housing monies could be used to provide something along the link road. Cllr Lewis suggested sending a letter to NCC to say that we are aware that there is monies available for affordable housing but we would like to request if it is not required for affordable housing if we could use it for other projects and infrastructure. It was agreed that we needed to get to grips with what our affordable housing needs are.

Cllr Watson updated the meeting regarding the street lighting project and said that a new contractor had been appointed and it was expected that it will be complete next year.

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

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

128.1 Cllr Horn attended COSH. He said the meeting was not very well attended and mainly focused on issues around anti-social behaviour in Berwick and Alnwick. Modern day

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slavery was also discussed and what signs to look out for in your area.

There are no further meetings this year but future dates will be circulated.

Cllr Watson clarified that ATC were happy that he takes forward the petition against the contraflow.

Cllr Watson also reminded people of the charity dinner at Zecca in aid of the Youth Project.

Cllr Weir informed the meeting that CAN has a new president – Lord Donald Curry of Kirhale.

129. FINANCIAL REPORT:

129.1: Finance Consultant and Mentor Gillian Turner attended the meeting to introduce herself. Gillian informed the meeting that the precept letter had been received and that the revised tax based has been received and takes into account some of the additional housing. It was confirmed that Amble did not have any election recharge costs to be met as it was an uncontested election.

It was also confirmed that NCC was not making any cuts to Neighbourhood Services in 18/19.

The double taxation of cemeteries was raised and will be recharged for 18/19.

129.2 Voucher numbers 181 – 194 for payment were approved and receipt vouchers 88-96 were noted for information (Finance)

Additional payments to add were £9843.00 for CCTV, £3958.15 for NCC signage, £1750.00 for contributions towards the Amble Harbour Defibrillator, £44.65 to Cliffwell Fuels, £2158.80 for Azure Printing.

Cllr Weir declared an interest in voucher number 193. Clarity was given on voucher number 194.

129.3: The bank reconciliation to date

The bank reconciliation is to be produced for the next meeting

129.4: Year to date to be produced for the next meeting.

129.5: Update on Earmarked funds was not required for this meeting. The Clerk to send Gillian the information that had been produced.

129.6 Grant Requests

- Tiny Woods Academy – further financial information to be requested
- Community Action Northumberland – a donation of £100 was agreed
- Great North Air Ambulance – a donation of £100 was agreed
- Amble East End Juniors – a donation of £100 was agreed
- Amble East End Walking Football – rejected.

130. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

130.1: The next Amenities Committee meeting is due to be held on 30 November 2017

131: PLANNING COMMITTEE

131.1: The planning report was reviewed.

131.2: The clerk to request a meeting with Active Northumberland to discuss section 106 arrangements.

132: AGENDA ITEMS:

132.1: NCC – Commons Act 2006 – Section 16 – Application to deregister an area of Amble Braid Village Green – as agreed above, Amble Town Council to submit an objection to the above proposal and would continue to explore alternative options.

132.2 Laptop & Software Costs

The meeting was informed that the laptop and software costs were £653.80 and agreed to pursue this option although in the future to be mindful that is it possible for a lease arrangement. Cllr Watson was not involved in this decision. The clerk to discuss with EB the external hard drive used for backing computer systems up. The clerk to use delegated

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powers to seek an alternative if necessary.

132.3 Scribe license – additional users

CLERK

It was agreed to purchase a license for additional machines at a cost of £192.50

132.4 Dental Services in Amble

Cllr Horn reported that there were no dental services in Amble that take NHS patients. He suggested writing to the existing dental practise to ask if they would consider taking on NHS patients or failing a response approach ARCH. Cllr Watson suggested that a more appropriate route would be to contact CCG to explain the concern about the lack of services within Amble and ask if there are proposals for the future.

WATSON

132.5 Review of leases

This item to be removed and discussed in private

132.6 CCTV new location

Cllr Watson agreed to fund additional cameras for Acklington Road and the play area. Cllr Watson to seek agreement and to update the clerk when appropriate.

CLERK

It was reported that the police would like to have a camera at every entrance and exit to the town but it was decided that this would have to wait until the future as this was not what these monies were agreed for.

CLERK

It was agreed to continue with agreed locations. The remainder of the balance for the CCTV is due to be paid.

Cllr Weir requested a copy of the letter that was sent to ADT regarding electricity usage.

132.7 Policing in Amble

Discussed above

132.8 Chair's Reception

The Chair's reception is taking place this year on 9th December at The Radcliffe Club, Amble. Entertainment will be from Ian Williams and Phil Stuckey. The charity raffle will be in aid of Amble Youth Project.

Items added late to the agenda

132.9 Local Democracy Day 5th December

A session at JCSC has been arranged to take place on 5 December 2017. After discussions with staff the session will focus on what democracy is, why Councillors chose this route and what drives them as well as some information about what we do. Cllrs Weir, Lewis, Parks and Dargue will lead on this.

CLERK

132.10 The Wynd Wall

The excess insurance is £100. The clerk is in the process of seeking quotes for the work. The clerk to find out what crime number was allocated to this.

132.11 Newsletter

Cllr Lewis produced the newsletter which was approved.

133. COMMUNICATIONS:

It was agreed for future to send communication items as and when received. If Cllrs wanted to raise anything arising from these to let the clerk know in advance of the meeting.

133.1: Invitation to Northumberland CVAs AGM on Monday 20th November 2018 - noted

133.2: 2016 Guidance for placing and enforcing unauthorised obstructions in the highway – noted and responded to ask NCC to be mindful of where they put their obstructions.

133.3: New Partnership for Bus Information Provision proposal. A response has been sent requested information for notice boards and to be kept informed.

CLERK

133.4 Trail Tale – noted but declined at this time.

133.5 Planning Training – Newcastle & Northumberland 4 December 2017 - noted

133.6 Tim Stickings from The Chronicle re Amble War Memorial – The clerk has asked Tim if he would like a meeting and is waiting to hear back

133.7 AONB Parish Chairs meeting - 15th November – The clerk to forward the

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information to Cllrs Horn and Morrison.

133.8 20 MPH Speeding Limit – Amble Town Centre – this was noted but questioned how this would be enforced.

133.9 Besthost - noted

133.10 Report of alleged nuisance from early morning crowing of cockerels at Percy Drive Allotments – this has been passed TO AAHS

133.11 Capping/referendum regime for Town & Parish Councils – noted for information

133.12 No waiting and loading at any time parking restriction – Amble Town Centre – A business had approached Cllr Lewis who gave them NCC contacts details.

CLERK

133.13 Parish Council Representative for the southern area of AONB

Adrian Hinchcliffe will be taking on this role.

133.11 Duke of Edinburgh Award

As this agenda item was not added in time it was agreed to defer to this to next months meeting.

134. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

There were no items for information

135. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

135.1.1 The next Meeting will be on Thursday 14th December 2017 at. 6.00pm. in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace.

The meeting ended at 8.57pm

It was resolved that 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

136: MINUTES –

The minutes were approved.

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

137.1 Cllr Weir raised the issue regarding time spent helping adults look for employment by Amble Youth Project.

137.2 Cllr Weir raised concerns about the Welfare and has queried when it will be able to be used again.

CLERK

138. AGENDA ITEMS

138.1: Consideration of SLA

Various options were being discussed with NCC.

CLERK

138.2: Potential disposal of land

The clerk has contacted the solicitor requesting some further information. Cllr Lewis reported on her findings from the Public Loans Board.

138.3: The Town Square Maintenance

It was agreed to ask ADT for a meeting to find a possible way forward.

138.4: Consideration of future of TIC building

A response is expected by 16 November 2017.

138.5: Personnel update

CLERK

Cllrs were updated fully on the new arrangements for the Town Council.

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The public opening hours have changed and are now 10.30am – 12pm and 1.30pm – 3.00pm.

WATSON

138.6 Loyalty Fund

All monies for the existing employees to be transferred to NEST. Further investigation is needed on the additional 10%

The £200 gratuity gift has been purchased.

138.7 CCTV

The old CCTV issue has been reported to NCC. The Clerk to wait to hear from Cllr Watson.

DRAFT

Chairs Signature.....