

## AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – OCTOBER 2014

At the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in the Conference Room, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

**PRESENT:** Cllrs C Weir (Chair), J Dargue, H Lewis, P Robinson and J Watson. The Clerk Miss Brown.

J Willoughby – Northumberland Gazette

No members of the public was present.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs I Hinson- Illness, R Arckless- other commitments, K Morrison- Holiday, K Bennett - Holiday. The apologies were agreed.

Actions

### **96. ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

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

### **97. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)**

No Members of the Public were present.

### **98. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL**

98.1: The minutes of the meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were agreed as a true record.

### **99. CLERK'S REPORT:**

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

99.1: Notes of Meeting with NCC regarding Paddlers circulated. Site visit with NCC Officer Emma Evans and representatives of Amble Community Team held 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014. The Clerk informed that a further meeting with NCC would take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> October where a potential funding bid to possibly fill in the redundant pools and paint games on a new colourful hard surface would be discussed.

99.2: Notes of NCC meeting regarding Traffic Update & Park and Ride Scheme circulated. Cllrs Weir and Lewis were invited to attend a further meeting as the Town Council representatives on 15<sup>th</sup> October at 3.30pm.

Weir/Lewis

99.3: The handover of the WW1 Centenary Commemorative Banners is still to be arranged as the banners have not yet been received from JCSC.

99.4: NALC draft document on Openness – Cllr Weir updated that this was now legislation but the finer details were still being discussed.

99.5: Local Government Pension Scheme – clarification from Government over pension scheme joining legal requirements. The Clerk informed that if Parish or Town councils want to award a guaranteed pension for their employees, they can use the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), although this does come with costs for both the employer and employee. Alternatively, they could consider the scope for using a stakeholder pension arrangement or, in the next few years, auto-enrol employees into a workplace pension such as the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) either in advance of or at the appropriate staging point proposed by DWP as an alternative to reliance on providing a gratuity. It was RESOLVED that a report be written up detailing the benefits/risks and costs of the various options available and brought back to the Council when ready.

Clerk

99.6: 'In Memory of the Fallen' website – It was agreed that this would be deferred to a future meeting.

January

99.7: Local Democracy Week – Update – The Clerk updated that Cllrs Dargue, Lewis and Weir with the Clerk (if she was required) would be visiting JCSC and Amble Links First School on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

99.8: Update on Tesco site demolition – The demolition of the site was progressing.

99.9: Harbour Village Public Realms works – relocation of tree, seat(s) and planter – The planter had been relocated to its temporary location on Leazes Street.

99.10: Commemorative seats – The Clerk was still investigating the seats

99.11: Lindisfarne Road – traffic calming – NCC had added a speed survey of the road to a job list but were unable to give details of the likely timescale.

99.12: Wildflowers – Rotary Way – It was noted that Warkworth Parish Council also agreed to contribute £250 per annum for a period of 5 years. The funding was unlikely to be required until 2016/17.

99.13: Guide dog owner concerned over road crossing – The Clerk informed that whilst the white lines marking the dropped kerb locations had been agreed, yellow lines had since been applied to

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various junctions including the dropped kerbs. The white lines were no longer required. The Clerk would inform the Guide Dogs for the Blind Engagement Officer.

Clerk

99.14: East Amble Community Action Group - The Clerk would send an application form to the group noting that perhaps East Amble Woman Group complete any funding bid as the umbrella organisation.

99.15: Concern of Footpath in West Cemetery – The Clerk informed that quotations had been received for the lifting of the stones and relaying with paving slabs, an alternative solution could be removing a section of the wall and laying a short path of paving to the graveside. The quotations would be discussed in Private.

99.16: Cobbles on Queen Street – The Clerk informed that the Highways Inspector reported that this has been a long ongoing problem on Queen street and they could not relay any of the loose blocks back in with hot pitch. Every time the blocks become loose the only thing that can be done is take the loose blocks out and fill the area with cement or tarmac to make it safe.

Queen Street has been put on a capital scheme for the blocks to be removed and the road to be resurfaced. This has been suggested for a non-principal scheme for some time in 2016/2017 at a possible cost of somewhere in the region of £80,000 to £100,000.

99.17: Cleanliness of Public Conveniences – The Clerk was still to send a letter to Cllr Swithenbank requesting that the Amble toilets be considered for improvements.

Clerk

99.18: Mayor's Reception – The Reception would this year be held in the Bede Street Club on 12<sup>th</sup> December.

99.19: Definition of Amble Town Centre for Northumberland Local Strategy – The Clerk circulated a plan showing the revised boundary for the town's commercial centre. The area shown is much wider than previously defined and includes all the streets the Town Council requested plus most of the other fairly scattered town centre uses. This allows for maximum flexibility and hopefully will encourage a variety of services to locate there. The fact that there is a fair amount of housing in the defined boundary won't affect the residential nature of those pockets. The boundary simply means that certain types of proposals will not have to go through 'sequential' and impact testing if they fall within the boundary, whereas they would if they were to fall outside it. NCC had deliberately omitted the expanses of land around the harbour and braid, as that could be seen as encouraging large scale uses without them having to demonstrate that they'll not be damaging to the vitality of the existing centre. Members were invited to send any comments to the Clerk by noon on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October.

All

99.20: Northumberland Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – A comment had been sent stating that the Council believe it is important that site 0351- should have the comment added that the previous planning consent had a constraint applied by the Planning Inspectorate that public car parking must be preserved here- approx. 52 places in total.

With the present traffic flow and parking problems- which may take some time to alleviate- and the imminent development of the Harbour Village which uses this facility, it was strongly felt that every effort should be made to preserve this parking area

99.21: Footpath adjacent to A1068 from Hauxley junction to South entrance of Amble – the edging of the footpath was to be done by the Highways team following a restructure. As the restructure took place in early October, the Clerk had now chased this up.

Clerk

### **100. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:**

To receive the communications and report of the Chairman pertaining to Council Business:

100.1: Northumberland AONB Parish Chairman meeting – Cllr Weir's notes of the meeting had been circulated.

100.2: Town & Parish Council Liaison Working Group – Task and Finish – Cllr Weir was unable to attend this meeting due to other commitments.

### **101. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:**

County Councillor Arkless' report was not available although he had indicated that it would be circulated following the meeting.

County Councillor Watson had nothing new to report.

### **102. 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

102.1: Northumberland Town and Parish Council Conference – Cllrs Lewis & Robinson both provided a report on the conference which would be circulated for information.

102.2: New Chairman Training – Cllr Robinson provided a report which would be circulated for

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information.

## **103. AGENDA ITEMS:**

103.1: Remembrance Day – The Clerk was to meet with the new Amble Detachment Staff Sargent to go through the route for the parade for Remembrance Sunday  
103.2: To consider Clerk's attendance at SLCC Training Day- AGREED

Clerk

## **104. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

104.1: To consider the accounts for payment – The financial report for the month was presented and all payments were agreed.  
104.2: Update on earmarked funds – The earmarked funds to date were presented.  
104.3: BDO – Conclusion of Audit – The Clerk informed that the Audit was now complete. The only matter arising was the receipt of the non recurrent grant to offset council tax support being recorded in the precept rather than any other income- this required no further action.

## **105. REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE:**

105.1: The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Were agreed as a true record.  
105.2: To consider the recommendations of the Events Sub Committee meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014. It was RESOLVED to contribute up to £1500 towards the cost of school workshops for the Christmas Lights event from the events committee fund held within the Community and Environmental budget in the event that the Awards 4 All grant application submitted by the events committee partner, Amble Development Trust, was unsuccessful.

## **106. REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE**

86.1: To receive the Planning Report to date. Received.

## **107. COMMUNICATIONS:**

107.1: NCC – 3 extra cuts – It was agreed to request a map of all areas included in the quote for 3 additional cuts, this would be brought back to a future meeting for discussion.  
107.2: St Cuthbert's Cookery Book Launch – The details of the launch were circulated for information.  
107.3: Coquet Shorebase Trust – Surrender of lease. The Solicitor acting on behalf of Coquet Shorebase Trust requested a meeting with the Council to discuss the surrender of the lease agreement held for the Trust between Amble Town Council and Northumberland County Council. It was RESOLVED that the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk be delegated to meet with the solicitor to progress this item.

Clerk

Weir/Dargue/Clerk

## **108. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:**

RECOMMENDATION - The Council noted the following information items.  
108.1: Northumberland AONB Coastal Views – September 2014  
108.2: NALC September E-News  
108.3: CANNY News September 2014

## **109. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:**

89:1 The next Meeting will be on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at approx. 6.30pm.** in the Conference Room, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace.

**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.**

## **PRIVATE**

### **110: MINUTES –**

110.1: The minutes of the meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 were agreed as a true record.  
110.2: The minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September were agreed as a true record.

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

111.1: Amble Development Trust – Cllr Weir was unable to attend the latest meeting.

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111.2: Amble 2020 – Cllr Dargue reported on the last meeting of Amble 2020.

### 112: CLERKS REPORT

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

112.1: Update on staff absence – The Clerk gave an update on the staff absence.

112.2: Update on land at High Street – The works were expected to commence within the next 4 weeks.

112.3: Update on 'Years to Remember' production investigations – Investigations into a venue would continue. This would be brought back to the November meeting for further discussion.

112.4: Update on land at Robson's Way – No update had been received to date; this would continue to be chased up. Clerk

112.5: Newcastle Work Experience Placement – It was RESOLVED not to pursue this any further.

112.6: In Memory of the Fallen Project - DVD's – It was RESOLVED to purchase 20 DVD's.

112.7: Concern of West Cemetery Footpath – The Clerk submitted quotes for works to improve the access for the wheelchair user. Neither option was considered appropriate. After discussion it was agreed to consider further options. Clerk

113: Consideration of Office Premises – Following discussion the Chair and Clerk were given delegated powers to pursue this. Weir/Clerk

114. S106 Agreement – It was RESOLVED that the letter be sent to Amble Development Trust, the Leader of Northumberland County Council, the NCC Locality Officer and the Chairman of the North Area Planning Committee urging a review of the situation as soon as possible. Clerk

115: Complaint against Councillors – To date no complaint had been received. This would be removed from the agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm