

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – November 2016

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 10 November 2016 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

PRESENT:

Cllrs J Dargue (Chair) T Barton, I Hinson, M Horn, H Lewis, K Morrison and C Weir with E Brown, Town Clerk and 4 Members of the Public

Action

126. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Arckless – Ill health, Cllr Watson - personal commitments. The apologies were agreed unanimously.

127. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

128. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes in total)

128.1: Mr Walter requested an update on the Acklington Road proposal for 500 houses. The Chair explained that the planning application had not yet got to the outline planning consultation stage.

Mr Walters queried whether there were any plans to resurface Acklington Road as part of the above housing development. The Chair once again reminded that the planning application was not at Outline planning stage yet, noting that this was a NCC Highways issue.

Mr Walters went on to query when the 'dip' in the A1068 at Radcliffe was due to be fixed - The Chair explained that again this was a NCC Highways issue and NCC were discussing this with the Coal Board.

Mr Walters was given the details of the NCC South Area Committee meeting which was due to take place the following week.

Mr and Mrs Bond – new residents to Amble noted that they were very happy to be in the town, but shared concerns regarding infrastructure and raised concerns that no fibre Broadband had been installed in the new Persimmons estate, as developments of over 30 properties could be installed by the broadband provider at no cost. This should be noted for future planning applications to be noted in comments as at present this is being done at the cost of the resident.

Gillian Robson – A new resident to the town, commented that the town had really changed for the positive but the only thing letting the town down was rubbish and dog fouling, she queried organised litter picks. The next Town Council litter pick would be held in spring.

129. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

129.1: The minutes of the meeting held 8 September 2016 were agreed as a true record.

129.2: The minutes of the Town Council meeting held 13 October 2016 with amendments were agreed as a true record.

130 CLERK'S REPORT:

That the Council noted the contents of the report and considered actions where necessary.

130.1: Notes of Parking and Traffic Flow meeting held 19 October 2016 – The notes were received for information. Cllr Lewis proposed that the Council cover the cost of £200 towards replacing the sign on the Persimmons roundabout that due to new legislation read '*Alnwick, town centre*' implying it was directing to Alnwick Town Centre. A new sign would direct to '*Alnwick, Amble Town Centre*'. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Weir and agreed. It was noted changes to the signage could not take place until the Highways agreement for the Persimmons site had been signed off.

130.2: Amble signage audit – An update was expected at the next Parking and Traffic Flow meeting which was due to be held on 16th November.

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130.3: Repairs to war memorial – The Clerk informed that the War Memorials Trust had indicated that they **may** consider funding repairs up to the value of 75% which could include preventative work to safeguard the memorial in the future. The Clerk would need to obtain a survey from a conservation accredited engineer and put the work out to tender to obtain quotations to progress a grant application. The Council agreed to cover the cost of the conservation accredited survey to progress this item. As the percentage of funding was not guaranteed, and final quotations to include preventative measures could increase the potential total cost, the Council should still prepare to cover the total likely costs in their budget.

130.4: Update on status of The Gut – NCC FCERM had confirmed that the landowner was willing to contribute to the cleaning of The Gut, and the department were just trying to organise things hoping the work would be done in the near future.

130.5: Website refresh – Meeting to be held 30th November at 2pm with the Chair, Vice Chair, Cllr Barton and Clerk and the website developer.

130.6: Audio recording equipment – The Clerk was delegated to a budget of up to £250 towards recording equipment and storage.

130.7: 2017 and 2018 WW1 Commemorative events booking plus ideas + working party – As preliminary arrangements were already in place for 2017, this item was deferred to the January agenda for progress.

130.8: Togston Square plaque – A letter of permission from the property owner was awaited.

130.9: Co-option Policy – The Clerk was working on the policy which would be returned to the December meeting for consideration.

130.10: NEAT Schedule of Work, meeting with Paul Jones, meeting re Leazes Street - A meeting with Neighbourhood Services had been arranged to take place on 30th November at 10am, the Clerk informed that the Officer was working on providing the information requested. The Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair would attend this meeting.

130.11: Events committee meeting dated 12 October 2016 – Noted for information.

130.12: Report of grant audit trail – The Audit trail had been conducted and the Clerk had carried out all actions raised from the Audit and was awaiting responses.

130.13: Amble 10k Run – No update.

130.14: re Neighbourhood Plan – The Clerk would ask a planning officer to meet with the Council.

130.15; Dovecote Centre – The Clerk had informed the Diocese of the Council's decision and informed that the Diocese would keep the Council updated of news / progress on the future of The Dovecote Centre.

130.16: Info – News page to be circulated for consideration out of meeting – This was agreed.

130.17: Town/Parish Liaison meeting – Ruth Bendell had been appointed Liaison Officer for Amble meeting with the Town Council on a monthly basis at present.

130.18: Governance Review update – The Clerk informed that NCC had responded that the Governance review would not meet the deadlines for consultation prior to the 2017 elections. Whilst the Clerk had confirmed the Council still wished to pursue the review, any changes would not take effect until 2021.

131. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

131.1: Cllr Dargue. – Cllr Dargue read out her report.

132. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

132.1: County Councillor Arckless submitted a written report which was circulated.

132.2: County Councillor Watson – No report.

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133. 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)

133.1: CAN – AGM 02/11/2016 – Cllr Weir informed that the notes of the meeting were available in the office.

133.2: Cycle Friendly Amble meeting held 02/11/2016 - The notes had been circulated.

133.3: Youth Project: Cllr Morrison would circulate a report of that day's meeting.

133.4: A meeting was held between the Town Councillors and developers regarding the proposed 500 houses at Acklington Road.

134. FINANCIAL REPORT:

134.1: Voucher numbers 200- 223 (totalling £3690.18 net, £4241.89 gross) for payment were presented. The payments were agreed and cheques signed as necessary. **Receipts 78-86** (totalling £2107.23) were noted for information.

134.2: The bank reconciliation to date – was presented showing an adjusted bank balance of £286,606.77, unpresented payment and receipts were also presented. The Clerk noted that the bank balance did not reconcile by £-49.40 and would investigate.

134.3: YTD – the year to date as at 3rd November showing the income and expenditure from each budget heading was presented for information.

134.4: Report of 6 month interim audit – Members accepted the audit for information, noting that the Internal Auditor planned on retiring after the year ending 2017 audit. The Clerk would query if Mr Basnett could recommend a successor.

134.5. Grant requests –

a) Great North Air Ambulance – Pursuant to Local Government Act 1972, section 137 Members unanimously agreed to donate £100 to support this vital service.

b) Amble Development Trust – Pursuant to Local Government Act 1972, section 137, Cllr Dargue proposed the Council support a grant application request for £900 towards printing costs for the new Coding Club and the purchase of a new lap top with software licences to be used to help volunteers of The Ambler continue their work and receive fulfilment. This was seconded by Cllr Barton. Cllr Hinson declared a personal interest regarding his wife's volunteer role with The Ambler. After much discussion, Cllr Dargue amended her proposal to £500 with the printing for the Coding Club being the priority. The remainder of this amount could be used towards the purchase of a laptop and software. This was seconded by Cllr Hinson and agreed unanimously.

135. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

135.1: The minutes of the meeting held 27 October 2016 were agreed as a true record.

136: PLANNING COMMITTEE

136.1: The report on planning decisions, planning matters pending and planning matters pending consideration during the month of October 2016 was presented for information.

136.2: A Planning Meeting would be held on Monday 21st November 2016 at 18.00.

137: AGENDA ITEMS:

137.1: Consideration of Draft budget and items for inclusion – The draft budget had been circulated and whilst savings had been made, an overall increase of £50,650 was suggested due to the following additional expenditure items; CCTV £15,000, Signage Audit £10,000, War Memorial Repairs £29,500. Members were reminded that this was only the first draft of the budget and comments, questions and suggestions

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were welcome prior to agreement at the January meeting of the Council.

137.2: Consideration of bike shelters purchase for next to TIC – Prior to consideration of this item permission would be required from the landowner. It was suggested that Sodexo may be able to make the shelters if the Council contributed to wards materials, this would be queried at the next meeting due to be held with them.

138. COMMUNICATIONS:

138.1: NCC - Parish Precept Requirement 2017-18 – The Clerk informed that NCC required the precept request by 27th January. For Council's whose precept exceeds £140,000 a break down of expenditure and income should be provided.

138.2: Northumberland AONB - Parish Chairs Meeting – Chairs of Parish Councils within and adjacent to the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are invited to attend a meeting with staff from the AONB Partnership. This will be a chance to hear about the work of the AONB Partnership over the last year, receive an update on their significant forthcoming projects and ask any questions about the AONB or their work. As the Chair or Vice Chair were unable to attend the meeting on 15th November, it was agreed that Cllr Morrison would attend.

138.3: NCC - Forthcoming consultation on Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy – The consultation on further major modifications to the Core Strategy will take place between 11 November 2016 and 23 December 2016. It was agreed that any comments would be brought to the December meeting or sent to the Clerk beforehand and it was delegated to the Chair and Clerk to collate comments.

138.4: Vera Baird – Rural Domestic Violence Champions and Public Meetings - The letter detailed that there are now some trained Rural Champions and more are welcome and can receive further detail by contacting Rachel.lawson@northumbria-pcc.gov.uk

Public meetings are to be held to which anyone is welcome to attend to talk to Vera about their priorities for policing and the meetings are to be held at County Hall, Morpeth at 5.30pm on 23rd November and The Kings Arms in Berwick at 5.30pm on 1st December.

138.5: NCC - Parish and Town Council Planning Training - Cllrs Dargue, Horn, Lewis and Weir expressed an interest in attending the training session on 22nd November at Morpeth Town Hall. The Clerk would attend the training event on 24th November in Choppington.

139. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

The Council noted the following information items.

139.1: NALC Enews 11 October 2016 (circulated to Members email 12/10/16)

139.2: NALC Enews 18 October 2016 (circulated to Members email 02/11/16)

139.3: NCC Training events - Planning Development Management (circulated to Members email 19/10/16)

139.4: NALC Enews 25 October 2016 (circulated to Members email 26/10/16)

139.5: AONB - Coastal Views October Issue (circulated to Members email 26/10/16)

139.6: NCC - Funding eBulletin November 2016 (circulated to Members email 02/11/16)

139.7: Highways England - A1 in North'land Road Improvements (circulated to Members email 01/11/16)

139.8: Northumberland VCS Support Services Ebulletin - Issue 62 (circulated to Members email 02/11/16)

139.9: Marine Conservation – Autumn 2016

139.10: Local Councils Update – Issue 199

139.11: CPRE Newsletter Autumn 2016

139.12: Local Councils Update Issue 200

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139.13: Local Councils Update Issue 201

139.14: NALC Enews 3 November 2016 (circulated to Members email 02/11/16)

140. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

140:1 The next Meeting will be on Thursday 8 December 2016 at 6.00pm. in the Town Council Office, 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.

PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE

141: Minutes of meeting held 13th October 2016 were agreed as a true record.

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

Cosh – Meeting held 31 October 2016 Cllr Horn gave a report of the meeting.

143: AGENDA ITEMS

143.1: CCTV update – A meeting had been held with a second company and Cllrs Dargue/Lewis regarding CCTV provision in the town. 3 options were discussed;

- wireless –connectivity from locations to office with direct line of sight. – this option is not feasible as more networking would need set up which would exhaust more than the proposed budget before purchasing any cameras.
- Download on incident driven basis.
- 3G option, using 3G, with a contract package SIM card.

Company requested to provide quotes for the last two options.

A further meeting with Louise Stobbart would take place on 23rd November at 10.00.

Louise would provide the complete specification that NCC requested for information.

She also highlighted the need to discuss and agree on the 12 principles of surveillance. A working party would be set up to discuss the 12 principles on Wed 16^h November at 10am with Cllrs Dargue, Horn, Lewis, Weir and the Clerk.

143.2 Letter regarding land matter – A meeting would be held on 22nd November with the agent, Vice Chair of the Council, Cllr Morrison and representatives of the third party. Cllr Hinson requested to be a reserve should anyone be unable to attend.

143.3: Meeting with solicitor re: tenancy agreements/ land issues – update – The Clerk had sent all paperwork apart from a colour copy of the conveyance and an accurate map of the west allotments site boundary. These documents would be pursued

143.4: Staffing matter – The appraisals were to be pursued and a further staffing party arranged.

The meeting closed at 20.56

Acronyms:

NCC – Northumberland County Council

NALC – Northumberland Association of Local Councils

CAN – Community Action Northumberland

NCVA – Northumberland Community Voluntary Association

CPRE – Campaign to Protect Rural England

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