

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 2014

At the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 11th September 2014 in the Town Council Meeting Room, The Quayside, Harbour Road, Amble.

PRESENT: Cllrs C Weir(Chair) R Arckless, K Bennett, J Dargue, K Morrison and P Robinson. The Clerk Miss Brown.

J Willoughby – Northumberland Gazette

1 Member of the public was present.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs I Hinson- Illness, H Lewis- Holiday, J Watson- Holiday. The apologies were agreed.

Actions

76. ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

77. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes)

No questions were asked.

78. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

78.1: The minutes of the meeting held 14th August 2014 were agreed as a true record.

79. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

79.1: Meeting with NCC and consultant regarding Paddlers to be held on 9th September; the Clerk would circulate notes of the meeting.

Clerk

79.2: Meeting with NCC regarding Traffic Update & Park and Ride Scheme – A further meeting was due to be held on 9th September; a number of communications had been received. The notes of the meeting would be circulated by the Clerk once received from NCC.

Clerk

79.3: WW1 Centenary Commemorative Banners – letters had been sent to Acklington and Hauxley Village Halls and Warkworth with Amble British Legion. The offers of the banners had been accepted. A date needed to be set for the presentation with JCSC.

Clerk

79.4: NALC draft document on Openness – Cllr Weir informed that the legislation had been passed and hoped to be in a position to give a further update following the next NALC meeting.

Weir

79.5: Local Government Pension Scheme – clarification from Government over pension scheme joining legal requirements. As information was still awaited, this would be deferred to the October meeting.

TC Oct

79.6: 'In Memory of the Fallen' website, it was RESOLVED that a domain name be purchased with delegated powers on choosing an appropriate name given to Cllrs Dargue, Lewis, Weir with the Clerk.

79.7: Northumberland Town and Parish Council Conference – Cllrs Lewis and Robinson to attend on 25th September.

79.8: Clerk's Forum meeting attended on 4th September; the Clerk gave a verbal report of the meeting.

79.9: Local Democracy Week – A meeting was held with Lynne Potts of JCSC - To consider report and allowance for expenditure. It was RESOLVED to allow up to £500 expenditure.

79.10: Update on Tesco site demolition – This would be discussed under communications.

79.11: Harbour Village Public Realms works – relocation of tree, seat(s) and planter. The Harbour Commissioners were agreeable to the temporary relocation of the Coal tub to the land behind Broomhill Street and had prepared the area. ADT were arranging for the contractors to move the above, although it was commented that they could not be held responsible if the tree died in transit.

79.12: Commemorative seats – The Clerk was awaiting info on a Puffin design for the seat to be placed in the High Street garden before placing an order.

79.13: Lindisfarne Road – traffic calming; the Clerk had requested info from Richard McKenzie. The problem of speeding vehicles had been highlighted to the police. Mr McKenzie had responded stating that physical measures such as speed humps or chicanes could be considered however what is possible depends on the position of people's driveways and would have to be accepted by the residents. There are already 20mph signs so the limit of what can be achieved with signing alone has been reached. The starting point will be to find out what traffic speeds are. Mr McKenzie had asked for a speed survey to be carried out and will let the Town Council know the results.

79.14: Wildflowers – Rotary Way – This would be deferred to the October meeting.

79.15: 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' – It was RESOLVED that the Council would not Fly a

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 2014

Flag for the Commonwealth.

79.16: Guide dog owner concerned over road crossing – The Clerk had asked Richard McKenzie to investigate further and would send him the details of the exact locations where white lines were missing at the dropped kerb crossings.

79.17: Swimming pool complaint – The Clerk had responded stating that the regulating of the pool was out of the Town Council's remit and provided the appropriate contact details. This matter was now considered closed.

79.18: Local Flood Risk Strategy – The Members had no comments.

79.19: East Amble Community Action Group – The group had responded to the request for more information stating that although they were not currently constituted or incorporated, they were running under the umbrella of the Fourth Action Group. The Youth Club was currently led by a qualified Youth & Community Worker from Fourth Action with input from another qualified worker from the Gallery Project, although they hope to be able to employ a qualified worker to lead the group in the future. Both qualified workers have undergone safeguarding training and the group operate under Fourth Action's Safeguarding Policy. The Members felt more reassured now that there was some clarification on the Groups status and also would suggest the group begin a dialogue with Amble Youth Project.

Clerk

79.20: Concern of Footpath in West Cemetery – It was agreed to defer this to the Amenities Committee.

79.21: Cobbles on Queen Street – The Clerk informed that Highways were due to carry out repairs on the cobbles. An inspector had commented on the frequency of reported repairs. It was RESOLVED that a letter be sent to NCC requesting they have a rethink of the cobbles, something more robust with safety and low maintenance as priorities should be investigated with copies to the County Councillors.

79.22: Cleanliness of Public conveniences – The Clerk had forwarded a complaint from a resident that there had been no soap in the toilets for the past 3 years. NCC had responded that the soap is replaced frequently. Cllr Weir commented that he recently saw an Operative carrying out a deep clean of the toilets next to the Tourist Information Centre and on asking the Operative was told that monthly inspections of the facilities take place with deep cleans taking place at least twice per year. It was agreed to contact NCC and thank them for the deep clean and also send a letter to Cllr Swithenbank who was behind a strategy to improve the facilities across Northumberland flagging up the wish for phased improvements at both Amble sites.

Clerk

Dargue

79.23: Mayor's Reception – It was delegated to the Clerk with the Chair to book the reception.

Lewis/Robin
son
Clerk

80. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

The Chairman reported on the following activities which he had attended on behalf of the Council:

80.1: Opening of Coquet Yacht Club's Balcony

80.2: Cheque presentation re: Brambles – The presentation with the giant cheque was due to take place on 12th September.

80.3: Northumberland AONB – Parish Chair meeting

80.4: PLWG – Meeting

80.5: RAF Boulmer – An invitation to the Chair with also 10 people from the Town Council and 10 from the British Legion. Names of those Members interested in attending should be forwarded to the Clerk.

Cllrs/Clerk

81. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

County Councillor Arckless circulated his report. He also detailed that he had opened the new Children's Home in Alnwick as the Head of Children's Services.

County Councillor Watson was not present to provide a report.

82. 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

82.1: Food factory on Industrial Estate – Cllr Weir reported the positive outcome that the issues with smell and noise pollution had been discussed with a NCC Officer and measures have been put in place with the owner

Weir

83. AGENDA ITEMS:

83.1: To consider the news page – It was RESOLVED that the news page be accepted with the addition of Cllr Hinson's Cllr corner.

83.2: To consider the hire of a larger meeting premises for Town Council meetings – It was RESOLVED to trial the hire of the meeting room at Fourways 2 for the next 3 Town Council

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 2014

meetings to see if this encouraged public participation.

83.3: To consider retrospective agreement to the cutting of the Welfare up to 3 times, to see the cutting through to the end of the season – It was RESOLVED to retrospectively agree to cut the Welfare up to 3 times.

84. FINANCIAL REPORT:

84.1: To consider the accounts for payment – The accounts were noted and it was RESOLVED that all cheques be signed.

84.2: Update on earmarked funds – The Clerk was unable to update due to time constraints, an update would be circulated once available.

85. REPORT FROM THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE:

The next meeting of the Amenities Committee would take place on Thursday 25th September at 6.30pm preceded by a site visit commencing at the Wynd entrance of the West Allotments at 5.30pm

86: REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE

86.1: To receive the Planning Report to date

87. COMMUNICATIONS:

87.1: NCC – Definition of Amble Town Centre for Northumberland Local Strategy – As the Town Council had commented '*We disagree with the preferred option for the definition of centre and the maintenance of their vitality and viability, more flexibility is needed and development should not be discouraged in areas*' during the consultation on the Core Strategy, NCC were requesting some information on where the Town Council would like to see the boundary extended. It was RESOLVED that the Council would like to see Church Street, Coquet Street and the Harbour area including Leazes Street.

87.2: Mark Thomas; Tesco – Date for proceeding demolition – The Clerk informed that the demolition of the redundant building was due to commence on 22nd August. On circulating this information, a comment had been received thanking Cllr Robinson for his work on his constituents' behalf.

87.3: Homes For Northumberland – New development street naming and allocations policy - The Clerk informed of a meeting due to take place in the Council Offices on 26th September, the details would be circulated by the Clerk and the item would be added to the Amenities Committee for discussion prior to the meeting.

87.4: Northumberland Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - Notice of site assessment consultation – It was RESOLVED that any comments should be returned to the Clerk by noon on 22nd September.

87.5: NALC AGM – Cllr Weir would attend as the Council representative.

87.6: Complaint of campervans overnight parking on Broomhill Street – The Clerk had contacted Parking Services regarding the Complaint. Unfortunately as there are no restrictions where the vehicles were parked there can be no enforcement through NCC. Northumbria Police can enforce vehicles if parked causing an obstruction. A query had been raised about signage.

87.7: Parish Council Training Opportunities – It was RESOLVED that Cllr Robinson attend the New Chairman training on 22nd September, the Clerk to attend the Financial Management training on 7th October.

87.8: Footpath adjacent to A1068 from Hauxley junction to South entrance of Amble – The Clerk had reported to NCC that the footpath was overgrown and access to wheelchair users were restricted. Subsequently NCC had cut back the grass and informed that edging would be done once the new Highways team had been formed in the coming months.

87.9: NCC – Joint Parish/Town Council meetings – The Clerk informed of the meeting dates of the next round of joint meetings

Clerk

Clerk

Amenities

Clerk

Clerk

88. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

That the Council noted the following information items.

88.1: NALC – e-news August 2014 (circulated by email 05.09.14)

88.2: Northumberland Advice Network Meeting (circulated by email 05.09.14)

88.3: NCC – Wellbeing and Community Health Services – Local Offer

88.4: Northumberland Coastal AONB Views

89. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

89:1 The next Meeting would be held on **Thursday 9th October 2014 at approx. 6.30pm.** in

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 2014

Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble

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 VERSIONPRIVATE

90: MINUTES –the minutes of the meeting held 14th August 2014 were accepted as a true record (page 22)

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

Amble Development Trust – The board of the Trust had not met between the August and September Town Council meetings.

Cllr Dargue had attended a meeting of LMAPS where the public toilets had been discussed. She informed that an automatic locking system was being trialled elsewhere in Northumberland.

92: CLERKS REPORT

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

92.1: Update on staff absence – The Clerk provided an update and a referral was agreed.

92.2: Update on land at High Street – This would be deferred to the October meeting pending the expiry of the 30th September deadline.

92.3: Update on ‘Years to Remember’ production investigations – It was agreed to accept the quote for the Years to Remember concert to be held on 25th April 2015. A suitable venue would be booked for that date.

92.4: Update on land at Robson’s Way – No update had been received to date. This would be followed up.

Clerk

93:COMMUNICATIONS:

93.1: To consider Newcastle Work Experience Placement – Potential projects for a future bid would be considered at the October meeting.

93.2: Letter to Leader of NCC – Following Cllr Lewis’ letter to the Leader, a reply had been received. This matter was now considered closed.

94: Guidance to Councillor – including correspondence – Following several occasions where established practice had not been followed by a Member which has led to lack of awareness and misconceptions; it was felt it was prudent to clarify some procedures to avoid any further misunderstandings. The Member confirmed that they understood the procedures. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Member confirming the clarification of procedures.

95: Complaint against Councillors – A complaint had been received from a resident against two Members of the Council, although it was not specific regarding the nature of the complaint and who the complaint was against. The Clerk had acknowledged receipt of the complaint and forwarded a copy of the complaints procedure to the resident. This item would be deferred pending the receipt of a more detailed complaint.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm