

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – January 2017

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 12 January 2017 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, and C Weir with V Smith, Administration Assistant, 4 members of public were present, 1 member of the press and Sergeant Sharon Wilmore-Grieves from Northumbria Police

Action

Cllr JD presented Cllr Robert Arckless with a gift and congratulated him on behalf of all at Amble Town Council on his achievement of being awarded an MBE.

163. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Kate Morrison – Illness. The apologies were agreed.

164. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

:None.

165. Stephen Drew & Chris Atoney – Northumberland Youth Service - maximum 15 minutes

Stephen Drew, Chris Atoney and Tracy Hinton were welcomed to the meeting. Chris Atoney gave an update and reported that the Youth Club was beginning tomorrow night and work is ongoing to recruit a permanent member of staff. Sourcing appropriate funding to support the work of Tracey has been difficult. The Friday Youth Club could potentially cease in March but there may be a possibility of continuing outreach work on the streets. Relationships are being developed within schools including the National Citizenship Project which is being promoted. There are AQA Awards that can be achieved for prospective youth workers and these are delivered through the Northumberland Youth Service. Recognised Level 3 NVQ qualifications are available however the cost of these is around £1000. Colleagues from the Youth Service would welcome attending the Town Council meetings and requested dates of meetings to be sent to them for information.

Sergeant Sharon Wilmore-Grieves reported that as staffing issues resolve that there has been more of a police presence in the town. Members agreed that the work of Darrin Fawcett was much appreciated and the links that he has created with local schools. Sergeant Wilmore-Grieves also reported that over the latest period there was a lesser level of crime that anticipated despite some instances of underage drinking which have now been resolved through licensing and further training. The Ask Angela initiative is still in its infancy and this would be chased up with HQ. Members thanked Sergeant Wilmore-Grieves for her time.

The representatives of the Youth Service and Sgt Wilmore-Grieves left the meeting.

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

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Mr Michael Walters addressed the meeting with a query about markings on the road of the A1068 & Togston. Cllr Arckless reported that some survey work at Moorhouse Farm was being carried out by the Coal Authority prior to repairs being made. As stated in LTP there is a commitment to resurface the A1068 however it needs to be ascertained that this area is stable before any works start.

Mr Walters also queried the access of the proposed 500 home development on Acklington Road. It was noted that the access to the site had not been changed

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despite comments from residents and members of the council. A Planning Committee has been arranged for Tuesday 17th January 2017 where the application will be discussed.

It was queried how many houses have been built in Amble since 2011 and what is being done to support the local infrastructure once the houses are built. Cllr Lewis referred to the Core Strategy which states government guidelines and the presumption that developments will be approved as there is a need for 1 million homes nationwide.

167 MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

167.1: To consider for approval and adoption the minutes of the meeting held 8 December 2016

The minutes are to be amended to state that Cllrs Jeff Watson and Robert Arckless were in attendance.

Item 152.5 is to be added to state that Cllr Lewis provided a short report on Sodexo meeting.

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

168. CLERK'S REPORT:

The Council noted the contents of the report and considered actions were necessary:

168.1: Notes of Parking and Traffic Flow meeting held 21 December 2016

The minutes of the is meeting were not yet available. Cllrs Dargue, Lewis and Arckless reported on the traffic audit and signage and consideration was requested on the proposed locations. This is a priority in order for the one way system to be successful. Comments on the cycle signage included a desire to work with the National Cycle Agency to look at alternative routes for Leazes Street. This is ongoing.

The meeting also focused on the works on Queen Street in removing the cobbles. The cobbles of Queen Street are not heritage cobbles and the removal of these will result in fewer reports of slips and trips and will also be safer, more durable, easily maintained and will maximise car parking spaces.

Queen Street will not be closed during this period.

168.2: Amble signage audit - is hoped that all signage can be progressed at the same time, street furniture will be painted and the pavements and drainage will be cleared (Queen Street). Any furniture that is no longer needed will be removed from Queen Street.

Cllr Arckless agreed to provide the balance of his Members Small Scheme Allowance to Amble Town Council to support additional services. It is expected that this is around £8000.

It was queried whether CCTV signage was required at the moment.

Amble Town Council agreed to use some of the funds available from Members Small Schemes to improve directions signage. – Does this refer to Robert's funding or something else?

168.3: Repairs to war memorial: The Clerk had met with the conservation accredited engineer this morning who conducted a survey of the memorial, a report is expected by the end of January.

It was reported than John Cole has planned an event to take place on 10 February 2017 at The Bede Street Club, Amble in aid of the Amble War Memorial repairs. The financial requirements for this are still to be confirmed and information is required as per fund raising guidelines.

168.4: Update on status of The Gut

The cleaning of Guilden's Burn is currently ongoing which in turn may put more pressure on The Gut. The situation is to be monitored. As this is within the Warkworth

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boundary, future talks will be with Warkworth rather than Amble.

168.5: Website refresh

A website refresh is currently underway and a demonstration will be arranged once full up and running. Reports on the number of hits the website has will be possible and it will be compatible with smart phone format.

168.6: Audio recording equipment

Audio recording equipment has been purchased and may be used in future.

168.7: Togston Square plaque

As permission was still awaited, a letter of requesting authorisation has been sent to the owner of the wall with a stamped addressed envelope included.

168.8: Litter pick arrangements and purchase of badge making machine

The Clerk is currently sourcing badge machines that are able to make badges of varying sizes. Cllr Lewis also agreed to search for suitable options.

Dates for litter picks are to be arranged with the first one taking place on 11 March 2017 at 10am. The Clerk to liaise with and write to the WI, Amble Cadets and the Amble Coastal Rowing Club as they will also be arranging litter picks. Information to be added to social media platforms to encourage community involvement.

Cllr Barton to discuss the option of prizes with Cllr Morrison and the Clerk.

168.9: Neighbourhood Plan – The request for a meeting had been deferred to May 2017

168.10: Amble 10K run

It was suggested and agreed that this item should be known as Active Amble as it is not only running that we hoping to achieve and promote to local residents.

The Clerk and Cllr Dargue met with Vic Brady from Active Northumberland and agreed that consideration should be given to starting up a beginners running group aimed at those new to running and looking to run as part of an organised group. Groups of this type are already set up in Rothbury and Alnwick and are managed and supported by Active Northumberland. The aims is to get a core group of runners established then encourage the more proactive members to apply to Run England for the Leadership and Fitness Qualification. This would enable them to take over the coaching side of the running group from Active Northumberland. The cost per person would be around £1. Vic Brady is looking into the possibility of Active Northumberland setting up such a group in Amble and already there has been a good response.

Some useful contacts have been made via attending the Hirst Running Club at Ashington and there remains interest in a Puffin Run as part of the Puffin Festival although it was acknowledged that this is still in its infancy.

168. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

168.1: Cllr Dargue. – Report

The report was received and is available upon request

169. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

169.1: County Councillor Arckless:

Cllr Arckless provided a written report in which he talked about being awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

Cllr Arckless has forwarded a presentation that was given on the 17/18 budget to the Area Committee.

Also discussed in the report were the works being carried out on Queen Street and Radcliffe, Hauxley Road Ends and Alnwick Way maintenance issues. A copy of his report is available upon request.

169.2: County Councillor Watson

Cllr Watson reported on complaints received in relation to the mud holes down at The Braid.

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Thanks were given to Darrin Fawcett from Northumbria Police for the support that he is giving....to what?

Cllr Watson attended a meeting at Longframlington which discussed the possibility of abolishing the planning committee. Feedback from the meeting seemed to reflect the current feeling within ATC.

Cllr Watson reported on the Rotarians wish for ATC to adopt the Town Square. It was noted that the Town Square belongs to ADT.

Cllr Watson also announced that he has been appointed as Harbour Commissioner and declared an interest with the quarterly meetings due to take place with them.

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

170.1 Sodexo Parish meeting report

Cllr Lewis previously circulated the report from the Sodexo Parish Meeting.

171. FINANCIAL REPORT: (Finance)

171.1: Voucher numbers 247 - 264 were agreed for payment and receipts 104 – 109 were for information. Cheques were signed as appropriate.

171.2: The bank reconciliation to date for information Agreed although the Clerk to work through the error in advance of the next meeting.

171.3: The YTD to be noted for information – The year to date figures were noted however No 26 (£250 from town projects)

No 49 – Cemetery Planting is a minus figure as it was previously decided that this would go against the environmental pot.

No 67 – it was previously decided not to budget as what is currently in pot 76.

171.4. Grant requests –

a) Active Northumberland – Health Walks Programme

Cllr Horn declared an interest. Active Northumberland Health Walks are not core funded. Health Walks have a history in Amble promoting both social and health benefits and are well attended. Pursuant to Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19 it was agreed to support Active Northumberland with a donation of £100 and welcome future involvement with Active Northumberland in the town.

b) Baliffgate Museum & Gallery – general funding request

Pursuant to Local Government Act 1972 section 145, Members agreed to support Baliffgate Museum with a donation of £75 and have requested a member of their team come to talk to Council at a future meeting.

Tiny Woods Academy – walking football

The Clerk is to write a letter requesting details of their income and how this is being put back into the community. Subject to this information being received it was agreed pursuant to Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19 it was agreed to donate £100.

c) Amble Women's Institute – Deferred from the December meeting

This item is deferred until a break down on the required expenditure is received from WI.

172. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

172.1: The minutes of the meeting held 24 November 2016 were approved as a true record..

172.2: The next meeting of the Amenities Management Committee would be held at 6pm on Thursday 26th January 2017.

173: PLANNING COMMITTEE

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173.1: The minutes of the meeting held 21 November 2016

were approved although a slight amendment to the date was required.

173.2: The minutes of the meeting held 3 January 2017

were approved. The Admin Assistant was to renumber the minutes so they ran consecutively from meeting to meeting

173.3: The report on planning decisions, planning matters pending and planning matters pending consideration during the month of December 2016 was noted for information.

173.4: For info: 16/04305/OUT | Application for outline planning permission with some matters reserved for construction of residential development of approximately 500 dwellings (including affordable homes), public open space, access to an existing highway and associated works | Land South And South East Of James Calvert Spence College Acklington Road Amble Northumberland
A planning committee meeting had been arranged for 17 January 2017.

174: AGENDA ITEMS:

174.1: Consideration of Co-option Policy

Cllr Helen Lewis submitted comments.

A request to add an element of question time was requested although it was acknowledged that this would need to be consistent across all applicants. It was agreed to add into the submissions section a paragraph stating that if questions are fully covered in submissions that we reserve the right to ask questions at a later stage. It was also agreed that candidates would leave the room while a decision was made if appropriate.

174.2: Launch of history trail

An article on the Reflections booklet has been featured in the Gazette. The first fish board planned to go on The Mound will be installed towards the end of next week. A launch to be arranged for The History Trail, meet at the East Cemetery and walking to The Mound. Initial date agreed as 25th January at 2pm and to invite press and public to attend.

174.3: Quotation for wet pour repairs/replacement at Paddlers Park

Members agreed on a new full black resurface of the play area wet pour for a cost of £7900. A method statement is requested to determine if fencing is included in the figure quoted before proceeding.

It was noted that the recreational budget also needed to provide for the seasonal worker.

174.4: Consideration of approval of budget for 2017/18

It was agreed that £5000 be vired from the signage budget to CCTV budget as County Councillor Cllr Arckless would help with this funding through Members Small Schemes
It was queried what impact the 500 new homes would have on the Band D rate and the precept request. Members unanimously agreed to set the precept for 2017/18 at £174950.

175. COMMUNICATIONS:

175.1: NCC - Consultation to Changes to Planning Protocols: Comments were submitted prior to the meeting.

175.2: Planning validation checklist

Comments have been submitted to NCC

176. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

The Council noted the following information items.

176.1: NALC Enews 6 December 2016 (circulated to Members email)Noted

176.1: NCC - Parish Council Planning Training presentation Noted

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176.3: NCC – Highways Winter Services Noted

176.4: Local Councils Update – December 2016 Noted

176.5: Marine Conservation Society Winter 2016 Noted

176.6: NCC – Archaeology In Northumberland Volume 22 Noted

176.7: England Coast Path: Amble to the Scottish Border, including Holy Island - public drop-in consultations Noted

176.8: Chloe's Den – Amble Links

Out of Sight is a charity set up to help support visually impaired children and their families in North Tyneside. A static caravan at Amble Links Caravan Site has been chosen as a respite caravan for those children and their families to be able to enjoy a break. The Mayor of North Tyneside and Mayor of Amble, alongside Cllr Weir, Arckless and Lewis will attend the official opening on 21 January 2017 at 11.30am. Cllr Weir has met with Park Leisure who have agreed that they will be looking at other areas of the park to make them more disabled friendly including the children's play area.

NCC – South Area Committee Meeting Wednesday 11 January: Choppington Social Welfare Centre, Colliery Road, Scotland Gate, Choppington, NE62

5SS:Noted

176.9: NALC Enews 15 December 2016 Council Tax Referendums Noted

176.10: NALC Enews 13 December 2016 (Planning) Noted

176.11: NCC - 2017 Election re-charges The Clerk to circulate the recharges information to members. It was reported that Town and Parish Councils will be told their election costs and will be required to pay them in full in 2018, after this period, the election costs must be budgeted for in the current precept of that year.

177. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

177:1 The next Meeting will be on Thursday 9th February 2017 at. 6.00pm. in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace.

Agenda Items to add

- Tree Preservation Orders and a request for all members to think of any trees that may have one.
- Loyalty Fund

Cllr Barton queried whether anything was being done about the holes in the temporary car park. Cllr Dargue and Cllr Lewis agreed to raise this at the next parking meeting as this is the responsibility of NCC

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 and no recordings of proceedings shall take place.

PUBLIC VERSION OF PRIVATE

178: MINUTES

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

178.2: The Planning Committee minutes of 21 November 2016 were agreed as a true record..

178.3: The Planning Committee minutes of 3 January 2017 were agreed as a true record.

179: PRIVATE REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE

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BODIES & REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

To mark the 300 year anniversary of the Masonic Lodge there is an opportunity to apply for up to £10,000 funding for projects within Amble. Amble Development Trust and Cllr Weir as Chair of Pride in Amble will progress this and report back to a future meeting. It is hoped the additional funding could possibly go towards lighting / laser and PA equipment for the Town Square.

180: AGENDA ITEMS

180.1: CCTV update

It was agreed to request a local reputable company are to carry out a Wi-Fi survey on proposed locations for the 8 cameras with one additional one.

The costings for the work were discussed and it was agreed in principle to proceed with the Wi-Fi survey, software to accommodate 16 cameras with the 6 monthly maintenance and call out facility.

Cllr Dargue to forward a picture of the additional street light number.

Cllr Watson declared an interest in this item and did not partake in any decision making.

180.2: Update regarding potential disposal of land

A change in personnel meant that there was no update at present. N update would be requested once a new officer was in place.

180.3: Meeting with solicitor re: tenancy agreements/ land issues – update

The Clerk was pursuing setting a with the solicitor

180.4: Town Liaison meeting held with Ruth Bendell & Paul Jones

A summary of the meeting was provided.

180.5: Query regarding potential land acquisition

It was agreed that the Council had no interest in acquiring this land.

180.6: Staff: Appraisals/Personal Performance Reviews

It was agreed to use the NCC appraisal format for the forthcoming appraisals.

Feedback will be given on its success and if it is a constructive model.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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