

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – FEBRUARY 2015

The Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 12th February 2015 at 6.30pm in the Conference Room, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

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

J Willoughby – Northumberland Gazette
2 members of the public were present.

APOLOGIES: Cllr R Arckless – Personal commitments. The apologies were agreed.

Actions

173. ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

174. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: (maximum 15 minutes): None.

175. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

175.1: The minutes of the meeting held 8th January 2015 were agreed as a true record.

176. CLERK'S REPORT:

RECOMMENDATION – The Council noted the contents of the report and considered actions where necessary.

176.1: The WW1 Centenary Commemorative Banners were still to be received from JCSC. The Clerk would chase this up and contact the organisations they were to be handed to apologising for the delay.

Clerk✓

176.2: 'In Memory of the Fallen' website – This matter was deferred to the March meeting of the Council.

Dargue/Lewis

176.4: NCC – 3 extra cuts – Following The priority areas being identified and details passed to NCC, a letter had been received offering the additional service which would extend the grass cutting period from 1 October 2015 through to 1 November 2015 and would give an earlier commencement date the following season of 17 March 2016 until 31 March 2016. The Clerk would request a quote.

Clerk✓

176.5: Harbour Village Public Realms works – relocation of tree and seat – Members commented that the tree and seat had both now been moved. The Clerk had not been made aware of this but would make enquiries as to the whereabouts of the tree and seat.

Clerk✓

176.6: Commemorative seats – The Clerk informed that a quotation had been requested for the siting of the seats but had not been received to date. She would continue to pursue this.

Clerk

176.7: Lindisfarne Road – traffic calming survey – The Clerk explained that this was still pending subject to NCC priorities. As the issue was with moving traffic, Cllr Dargue was requested to raise this with LMAPS.

Dargue

176.8: Precept request update – The Clerk had submitted the precept request at £114,850, which included a £2000 contribution to a parking scheme proposed by NCC.

176.9: NCC Cemeteries – An official letter of offer of the rebate was awaited. Cllr Weir commented that NALC were also in agreement with the proposed rebate and the calculation used.

176.10: NCC Core Strategy – Comments had been returned to the Clerk who had compiled a response and submitted to NCC. A copy of the comments in full would be circulated to the Members for information.

Clerk

176.11: NCC Core Strategy Workshops – Cllr Lewis and the Clerk had attended the Housing and Greenbelt workshop which was reported back to the Planning Committee meeting held 27th January.

176.12: Digital Mapping demonstration held 6th November – Due to time constraints as a result of the office move, the Clerk had been unable to compile a report on the mapping system. It was therefore agreed to defer until the March meeting.

Clerk

176.13: Hallbank Well – An update about a possible site visit with the Conservation Officer was requested via the Locality Officer. This would be monitored.

Clerk

177. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

To receive the communications and report of the Chairman pertaining to Council Business: The Chair informed that he had attended a meeting of NALC. He would circulate the minutes and report.

Weir

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178. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

178.1: To receive a report from County Councillor Arckless: None.

178.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson: Cllr Watson informed that he had raised concerns over the football shirts on the trees at the Wynd in his report to the Ambler. Cllr Dargue informed that this had been raised and discussed at an LMAPS meeting but due to the sensitive nature this would be reported on in Private.

Having attended the Audit Committee meeting, Cllr Watson reported that it was agreed to consider the recommendations of the Deloitte Planning Review, noting that he did not agree with the proposed removal of the Parish Council 'trigger' for applications to be deferred to the relevant Area Committees.

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

Cllrs Dargue and Weir had attended the LMAPS meeting which would be reported in Private.

180. FINANCIAL REPORT:

180.1: The accounts for the months were agreed and income noted.

180.2: Update on YTD and earmarked funds – The Clerk would endeavour to circulate the updated figures prior to the next meeting. Clerk

180.3: Bank Reconciliation – The Clerk would endeavour to circulate the updated figures prior to the next meeting. Clerk

181. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

181.1: The minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 29th January 2015 were agreed as a true record.

181.2: To consider the following recommendations of the Amenities Committee:

- That the Town Council select the Agency Agreement option for the play area, whilst querying aspects of the Service Level Agreement as follows:
 1. Does the grounds maintenance include litter picking/glass removal
 2. Page 8 states NCC will carry out lubricating & replacement of items. Does this mean NCC supply or TC supply?
 3. A check of the Asset list for the site would need to be done.

This was agreed.

- The purchase of a new bus shelter for High Street along with suggesting that NCC remove the existing shelter on High Street and the deteriorated bus shelter at the entrance of the Industrial Estate.

This was agreed.

Clerk✓

Clerk✓

182: PLANNING COMMITTEE

182.1: The minutes of the meeting held 27th January 2015 were agreed as a true record.

182.2: Planning decisions made

14/03507/FUL – 158 Percy Street, Amble – Proposed disabled access and bin store – No objections – Application granted.

14/03677/FUL - 5 Windsor Terrace - porch & bay window - No objections – Application permitted

14/04050/FUL – Hope Farm – Indoor Riding Arena – No objections – Application permitted.

182.3: Planning matters pending

14/03931/FUL - 5 Bisley Road - demolish conservatory add single storey leanto - No objections Clerk

14/03886/FUL - Longstaffs Coaches Ltd Longstaffs Coaches Coquet Enterprise Park Amble - Proposed office building – No objections; welcome addition to local business.

14/04029/FUL - Buildings West Of Gloster Hill Farmhouse, Gloster Hill, Amble - Full planning application for 44 dwellings, including 10 affordable homes - Objections

14/04273/FUL - Holywell Engineering Ltd, Coquet Enterprise Park - Install additional vehicle entrance in to yard forming a double gate and new hard standing entrance surfacing – No objections.

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182.3: Planning applications to be considered (via a Planning meeting or circulation)

15/00118/FUL – 33 King Edwards Street, NE65 0ES – Retrospective erection of a fence to front

15/00245/FUL – Karhaydon, Percy Street NE65 0PL - Retrospective: Pitched roof above garage and utility room to form non-habitable storage space at side with dormer window to rear (as amended 09/02/15)

15/00146/FUL - 73 Queen Street NE65 0DA - Mixed Change of Use from ground floor shop unit to A2, A2 and A3 with residential first floor flat. Replacement shopfront and insertion of window to rear elevation

15/00125/FUL - Wellwood Arms NE65 0LD - Retrospective planning application for extract flue as existing and to extend a further 1m above eaves height. Proposed screening (not commenced) to reduce the impact and vision. To re-siting of (1800x1200) timber shed.

15/00293/CCD - Former Caretakers House Coquet High School NE65 0NG - Conversion of existing former caretakers bungalow to additional teaching/learning space.

14/03912/ADE - St Cuthberts C Of E Church NE65 0DY - Advertisement consent for 1 aluminium church name board and 1 poster/notice board.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

183. AGENDA ITEMS:

183.1: Consideration of Pension Schemes – The Clerk updated that under the Pensions Act 2008, every employer with staff in the UK must automatically enrol those who meet a certain criteria into a workplace pension scheme and contribute towards it. The staging date set for Amble Town Council is 1st January 2016 and is set by law. The Clerk was nominated as the contact for all correspondence. A report on available pension schemes would be submitted to the March meeting. The Clerk would query the legalities of the Loyalty Scheme/Gratuity and whether this had to be ring fenced.

Clerk

183.2: Consideration of payroll Service Level Agreement – The Members accepted the recommendations of the report and agreed to outsource the Payroll administration of the Town Council to Northumberland County Council. A copy of the report will be attached to the minutes.

Clerk

183.3: Consideration of Annual Parish meeting date (community forum meeting) It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish meeting on Tuesday 12th May between 6-8pm. Cllr Weir commented that he would like to invite all Community Groups to attend.

It was also agreed to hold a youth forum meeting on Wednesday 22nd April at 6.00pm.

Clerk

Representatives of all of the Town's Youth Services would be invited.

183.4: Consideration of contribution to Paddlers refurbishment – Members agreed unanimously to contribute an amount of £20,000 towards the Paddlers improvements scheme.

183.5: Wynd Flower bed – It was agreed that the design for the Wynd Planter would be themed 'Waterloo 1815 – 2015'.

183.6: Rent of Raised beds at Allotments – It was agreed to implement a yearly rent of the raised beds, charging £8.00 for a large bed and £5.00 for a small bed with security of tenure to 31st December 2015. Letters would be sent to all of the tenants to make them aware.

Clerk

183.7: Years to Remember concert. – It was agreed that tickets would be sold at £8.00 per person and refreshments would be available to purchase during the interval.

184. COMMUNICATIONS:

184.1: At the request of Cllr Lewis, it was agreed to move the following item from private into the public session of the meeting:

'189.4: S106 Agreement'

The Clerk read out the response from the Leader of the County Council which was a lengthy letter confirming that the Council had not yet received any payments from Persimmon Homes under the provisions of the latest S106 agreement and therefore no decision had been made on where the expected funds were to be spent. He confirmed that the expenditure of the S106 monies to be secured was flexible with no definitive amounts being allocated to either affordable housing schemes or Welfare improvements and that the allocation of the S106 funds would be subject to consultation by NCC with Amble Development Trust. He gave a commitment that Amble Town Council would be involved in the consultation process.

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It was proposed that a response be sent thanking for the full a frank reply. The discussions on the subject at a meeting of the North Area Planning Committee held in Alnwick appeared to have been interpreted differently by Amble Town Council to that of NCC and the Executive. The Town Council would look forward to being closely involved in future discussions of the S106 agreement and its implementation but reserved the right to strive for the maximum amount of money being spent at the Welfare. This was agreed

Clerk

185. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

The following information items were noted.

185.1: Clerks & Councils Direct January 2015

185.2: Local Councils Update Issue 181

186. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

186:1 The next Meeting will be on Thursday 12th March 2015 at approx. 6.30pm. in the Conference Room, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace.

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

187: MINUTES –

187.1: The minutes of the Town Council meeting held 8th January 2015 were agreed as a true record.

187.2: The minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on Thursday 29th January 2015 were agreed as a true record.

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

Cllr Dargue provided a report on a meeting of the LMAPS group which she would circulate to Members for information.

Dargue

189: CLERKS REPORT

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

189.1: High Street Garden – To consider quotations for revamp – The quotations were considered and it was agreed to accept the quotation from Beck Groundworks.

Clerk

189.2: Update on 'Years to Remember' production investigations and future WW1 commemorative events – This was now in discussion in the public domain.

189.3: Concern of West Cemetery Footpath – Following the advice of the NCC Equality Officer, the top layer of stones was removed and the footpath was compacted with a dressing. The Clerk would write a letter to Mr Heggarty to update him on this progress and the likely timescale for the works to be done.

Clerk

189.4: S106 Agreement – The item had been moved into the public session.

189.5: Delivering Differently – The Locality Officer had informed that NCC had been unsuccessful in their bid for funding through the Government.

189.6: Surrender of Lease update – The surrender of lease legal documents were imminent.

189.7: Site appraisal of potential development site – The Clerk informed that a site visit with a Planning Officer had been arranged to take place on Thursday 26th February at 4pm. Cllr Lewis and the Clerk would attend.

Clerk/Lewis

190: Pay review – The recommendations of the working group were considered and agreed with on amendment.

191: The Clerk informed that a request had been received from a tenant to purchase the land that they leased. The Clerk would investigate this and bring back to a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

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Dargue

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk/Lewis

Clerk