

## AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – October 2016

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday 13 October 2016 at 6.00pm in the Town Council Office, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

### PRESENT:

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

The Chair formally welcomed Cllr Barton to his first meeting of the Council and also welcomed the Public who were in attendance.

Action

**109. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None.

**110. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

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

**Mr Walters – Acklington Road**, raised concerns over the proposed development of 500 houses on Acklington Road, stating that the road is not suitable for access to the site and the development should not be allowed to proceed unless the access is changed. Mr Walters submitted a copy of a petition, on behalf of the electors of Acklington Road; that he had submitted to Northumberland County Council. Concerns related to anticipated construction traffic

It was noted by the Chair that this proposal had not yet been submitted to the planning system and that all would have an opportunity to comment at the appropriate stage. Cllr Arckless confirmed that he was aware the petition had been received by NCC and was being process by the democratic services team.

**Mr Coulson – George Street** – Noted that quite a few residents wished to attend but he felt that with only 5 minutes speaking time it was best for only 2 to attend to get across the points. He noted that discussions about permits were had at a meeting in September 2015 and the Members of the Parking group agreed that Residents Only permits were not an option. He noted that info on permits and the one way system were to be sent out (as in the notes of November 2015 meeting) but residents did not receive anything. In April/May 2016 NCC canvassed the residents on 3 options, residents, dual or no change however not all residents were consulted and 10 responses were received from Lawson Street and 9 responses from George Street (it was noted that not all George Street residents were consulted). Mr Coulson had surveyed the residents of George Street and Lawson Street and found 34 households objected to the dual use scheme, he urged that the scheme be dropped or changed to residents only as the dual use will not help residents at all and will only make things worse. Mr Coulson urged that permanent long stay car parking provision was required in the town but residential streets are not the answer. Copies of resident's objections were handed to the Clerk.

Mr Coulson queried who the residents should be contacting in the future.

Members agreed that the concerns of residents would be taken to the next meeting of the Parking Group.

The Clerk said she was happy to be the contact for information and updates.

**Mrs Burke – Gloster Hill** representing Amble Business Club raised concerns of the lack of policing and lack of police presence throughout the shopping areas over the summer months. The Chair of the Council shared these concerns and confirmed that these views appeared to be the perception of the residents too.

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### Northumbria Police

Inspector Liz Hall addressed the meeting agreeing that yes there had been a reduced Neighbourhood Policing team due to a reduction in staff as a result of the financial climate and end of service for retiring staff members. A major recruitment campaign was underway to try to bring visibility back to where it should be. Changes in boundary lines and changes in sectors to benefit the area should mean an increase of staff particularly for night times, a shared responsibility from Alnwick and Morpeth stations. Focused response of great benefit, ladies groups, parent & toddler groups, police will attend to over support of specific issues and tailored to the needs of the groups. Response times published were for whole Northern Sector and therefore included travel times in more congested areas i.e. Wallsend. Non emergency number use demand problems relating to non police issues. My Street App campaign to provide guidance to correct agency to deal with problems. It was agreed that the My Street App could be better publicised.

### 112. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

**112.1: To consider for approval and adoption the minutes of the meeting held 8 September 2016** – These minutes were not yet complete so could not be approved. This would be deferred to the November meeting.

**112.2: The minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held 28 September 2016 re: Governance Review** - were agreed as a true record. The Clerk informed that the special meeting was held due to the timescales involved, however the only officer of NCC who deals with the review is currently on leave for 3 weeks. It is hoped that a review will still take place over the winter. Out of courtesy Warkworth Parish Council would be informed of the Town Council's request for a Governance Review.

**112.3: The minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016 re: the Future of the Dovecote Centre** were agreed as a true record.

### 113. CLERK'S REPORT:

**The Council noted the contents of the report and consider actions were necessary.**

**113.1: Notes of Parking and Traffic Flow meeting held 21 September 2016** - The notes were accepted for information.

**113.2: Amble signage audit** – No information had been received.

**113.3: Repairs to war memorial** – The Clerk informed that the quotes had been received for the various elements of repair work and this information had been passed to the War Memorials Trust along with the condition reports and this will be taken to their board of Directors for consideration due to the costs involved and the fact that a substantial grant was provided in 2009.

**113.4: Update on status of The Gut** – Mr Green of the NCC FCERM was awaiting a response from Northumberland Estates regarding the Gut.

**113.6: Website refresh** – This was ongoing and the Clerk would arrange a meeting with the website company who set up amble.gov.uk for the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair to discuss further.

**113.7: Audio recording equipment** – this was ongoing.

**113.8: 2017 and 2018 WW1 Commemorative events** – Nothing had been received from the public to date so it was agreed that the Council would pursue a war time meal on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July, hopefully working with a local group.

**113.9: For information, Cllrs are reminded that any items for inclusion in the budget should be brought to November meeting.** The Clerk would be meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair to discuss this prior to the November meeting.

**113.10: Togston Square plaque** – The Clerk would send a letter to the property owner requesting permission to erect a steel plaque on the wall to commemorate

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Togston Square, a copy would be sent to Mrs Shepherd.

**113.11: Co-option Policy** – The template for a co-option policy would be brought to the November meeting for consideration.

**113.12: NEAT Schedule of Work, meeting with Paul Jones, meeting re Leazes Street and meeting re Neighbourhood Plan.** Members requested a meeting be arranged with Paul Jones to discuss as there were various issues that needed to be discussed.

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

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

**114.1: Cllr Dargue. – Report** – The Clerk read out her report which is available upon request.

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

**115.1: County Councillor Arckless** submitted a written report which is available upon request.

**115.2: To receive a report from County Councillor Watson** – Cllr Watson informed that he had emailed the NCC Chief Exec enquiring about the NHB, who had responded that un ring fenced grant, is used by NCC to cushion the impact of funding cuts and that Parishes will benefit from maintaining a higher service provision. Cllr Watson was continuing to query whether the Government advises Principles to liaise with communities where housing development is taking place and use the funding to enhance infrastructure.

Cllr Watson also stated his concerns regarding the proposed housing development and had had been assured that the Town Council would be involved  
HL proposed County Cllrs lobby to widen the remit of S106 agreements, previous applications indicate NCC have only used S106 for affordable housing and recreation where as government policy allow it to cover much more in terms of infrastructure. This was seconded by Cllr Dargue and agreed.

### **116. 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)**

**116.1: Public Viewing of Proposed Housing Development on Acklington Road** – Cllr Lewis had circulated her notes from the consultation to Members

**116.2: Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP)** - Cllr Morrison had circulated her notes to Members.

**116.3: Local Council Conference** – Cllrs Lewis and Weir attended and gave a short verbal report.

### **117. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**117.1: A report detailing voucher numbers 158- 199** for payment were presented and all payments were agreed and **receipts 54-** were noted for information. **(Finance)**

**117.2: The bank reconciliation to date** – was presented showing an adjusted bank balance of £290083, unrepresented payment and receipts were also presented. £261700 of this fund is currently ring fenced and a copy of the detailed ring fenced schedule was available upon request.

**117.3: YTD** – the year to date showing the income and expenditure from each budget heading was presented for information.

**117.3: Notice of Conclusion of Audit** – The audit was concluded and the following issues resulted in the annual return being qualified:

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- Accounting statements not approved by 30 June – RECOMMENDATION – *That the authority must ensure in future years that the accounting statements are signed by the RFO and then reviewed and signed as approved by the smaller authority meeting as a whole by the latest date in order to comply with the electors rights dates, which must include the first 10 working days of July*
- Inspection Period for the exercise of Electors Rights - RECOMMENDATION – *The authority must ensure that the inspection period for exercise of electors rights must include the first 10 working days of July next year in accordance with the regulations in force.*
- Minor Issues (x1) – RECOMMENDATION – *No further action.*

**117.4: Arrangements for 6 month interim audit** – The Auditor was booked to carry out the audit and would be attending at the end of October.

### **117.5. Grant requests –**

- **Amble Youth Project** – Pursuant to Local Government Act 1972, Section 137 Members agreed to grant a donation of £250 from the Town Projects fund due to the Friday night sessions being in danger of closing due to financial hardship. Cllr Watson declared an interest.
- **Active Northumberland Health Walks** – A general funding request had been received requesting funding towards a North Northumberland Health Walks Programme. Cllr Lewis proposed that as it was unclear what the funding was requested for, the Council no not support this general funding request, however should funding be requested to support a walk leader or promote a walk in the town then the Council would reconsider subject to the receipt of a further funding request. This was seconded by Cllr Watson and agreed.

**117.6: Consideration of grant audit trial from April 2015 to date** – An audit trail working party would meet on 26<sup>th</sup> October with Cllrs Barton, Dargue and Lewis and the Clerk looking at grants and donation paid from April 2015.

### **118. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:**

**118.1: The minutes of the meeting held 28 September 2016** were agreed as a true record

**118.2:** The next meeting of the Committee would take place on 27 October 2016

### **119: PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**119.1:** The report providing information on planning decisions, planning matters pending and planning matters pending consideration during the month of September 2016 had been circulated.

### **120: AGENDA ITEMS:**

**120.1: To consider employer pensionable contribution rate** (currently 5% of employee net salary) – Cllr Lewis proposed that the employers contribution rate increase to 10% from April 2017, this was seconded by Cllr Watson and agreed.

### **121. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Nathanial Lichfield & Partners – Acklington Road, Amble – Proposed development of 500 homes** – This had been discussed previously on this agenda.

**121.2: Removal of BT telephone boxes Links Avenue & Queen Street / High Street** –NCC were consulting on a BT proposal to remove the two telephone boxes. The usage figures had been provided 64 calls in the last 12 months at Links Avenue and 177 calls in the last 12 months at Queen Street. Members had no objections.

**121.3: Run Nation** – Correspondence had been received proposing an Amble 10k Run and asking for the support of the Council, which could include financial support.

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Members thought it was a good idea but requested more information on costs. Members were aware that Active Northumberland were currently pursuing organised runs, the Clerk would contact Active Northumberland and ask what they had planned, if anything, in Amble.

121.4: Parish Liaison Meetings – Due to changes in structure, the liaison meetings would now take place with a Senior Officer of the Council one every 6 months and would be grouped in an area cluster. The Clerk would circulate the information to Members.

121.5: Mr & Mrs Yearnshire – Parking on Lawson Street and George Street, The Clerk read out the letter – Members commented that parking had already been discussed during the public question time and Members had agreed to feed back comments to the Parking and Traffic Flow meeting.

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

**The Council noted the information items.**

**122.1: NALC Enews 7 September 2016**

**122.2: NALC Enews 14 September 2016**

**122.3: NALC Enews 27 September 2016**

**122.4: NALC Enews: Council Tax Referendums** - A proposal in Parliament is being considered to introduce the referendum concept for the larger Local Councils.

The summary of the paper states

*“that referendum principles are introduced for town and parish councils whose Band D precept is higher than that of the lowest charging district council for 2016/17 (£75.46), and which have a total precept for 2016/17 of at least £500,000, while taking account of transfers of responsibilities, and that consideration is given to the extension of referendums to all local precepting authorities.”* However, if Govt decide it should be either/or of the criteria, then potentially Amble will be caught with a Band D precept of over £75.46, and a precept significantly below £500K.

The progress of this would be monitored.

**122.5: Northumberland CVA’s AGM 2016**

**122.6: NCC - A new way to report local issues**

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

**123:1** The next Meeting will be on Thursday 10 November 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**

**124: PRIVATE REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES & REPORTS OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS** – None.

### **125: AGENDA ITEMS**

**125.1: Report from staffing working party** – The notes of this meeting were not yet complete. A verbal report was provided by the Clerk detailing the need to review the appraisals prior to reviewing the current staff.

The future of the Seasonal employee was discussed.

**125.2: CCTV update** – NCC required the town centre locations for the two deployable CCTV cameras in consultation with Northumbria Police. The Clerk would liaise with

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the police to establish the priority locations.

A quote had been received from for a 16 HD Camera System - following a walk about. Further quotations from other companies were still required. The Clerk would chase this up.

**125.3: Letter regarding land matter** – A meeting would be arranged with the agent and the Masonic Lodge representative to discuss further.

**125.4: Meeting with solicitor re: tenancy agreements/ land issues** – No update was provided.

The meeting closed at 9.06pm

### **Acronyms:**

**NCC – Northumberland County Council**

**NALC – Northumberland Association of Local Councils**

**CAN – Community Action Northumberland**

**NCVA – Northumberland Community Voluntary Association**

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