

AMBLE TOWN COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 2014

At the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 13th November 2014 at 6.30pm in the Conference Room, Fourways 2, 6 Dilston Terrace, Amble.

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

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

APOLOGIES: Cllrs I Hinson- Illness, K Morrison- Holiday. The apologies were agreed.
Cllr Arckless informed that he would need to leave the meeting at 8pm.

Actions

116. ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

117. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: No questions were asked.

118. MINUTES: TOWN COUNCIL

118.1: The minutes of the meeting held 9th October 2014 were agreed as a true record.

119. CLERK'S REPORT:

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

119.1: WW1 Centenary Commemorative Banners- hand over from JCSC is still to be arranged

119.2: The notes of the Homes for Northumberland meeting held 26th September had been circulated.

119.3: The notes of NCC meeting held 15th October regarding Parking and Traffic Flow had been circulated.

119.4: Clerk attended SLCC Training Day 21st October.

119.5: Notes of Meeting with NCC held 23rd October regarding Paddlers circulated

119.6: NALC draft document on Openness – The Clerk informed that NCC are to circulate their own policy to Town and Parish Councils.

119.7: Local Government Pension Scheme – clarification from Government over pension scheme joining legal requirements – Investigations were ongoing.

119.8: 'In Memory of the Fallen' website - The website was being deferred to the January meeting as it was undecided as yet whether this would be part of the existing Town Council website or whether a dedicated website.

119.9: Local Democracy Week – Report – The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Arckless informed that he was in discussions with NCC over future grass cutting in the area. Cllr Watson would ask NCC if they could provide appropriate signage regarding dog fouling for the footpath which was used as a thoroughfare between the schools. It was hoped that a community day would be held on site in the future for volunteers to remove the fencing.

119.10: Graffiti on war memorial reported to police. Removed and letters of apology received.

119.11: NCC – 3 extra cuts – The Clerk and Cllr Lewis were discussing the areas of responsibility with NCC.

Clerk/Lewis

119.12: Harbour Village Public Realms works – relocation of tree, seat(s). The tree and seat had not yet been moved.

119.13: Commemorative seats – costing for the commemorative seats were still being pursued.

Clerk

119.14: Lindisfarne Road – traffic calming survey – this was still pending.

119.15: Potholes at entrance of NCC car park at rear of Blue Bell reported to NCC for repair

119.16: Barrier across pavement and holes it has created at Straffen Court reported for repair. Been removed and holes made good but needed to be replaced

119.17: Mayor's Reception – update The invitations had now been sent out. A raffle would be held in aid of Amble Community Team.

119.18: Footpath adjacent to A1068 from Hauxley junction to South entrance of Amble was due to be cleared and edged week commencing 17th November.

119.19: Digital Mapping demonstration held 6th November – The demonstration had been held and those who attended were impressed. The Clerk would prepare a report on the efficiency and costing and return to the Council at the February meeting.

Clerk

120. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS and REPORT:

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

120.1: Years to Remember concert at Lesbury, this was well attended and very poignant.

120.2: Remembrance Sunday Service, a fantastic turnout, it was good to have the Duchess

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present. Cllr Watson suggested a small working group be held in July 2015 to discuss amendments to improve the service.

120.3: Armistice Day; a service was held in the Town Square with the children of Amble First School and Busy Bees. The Chairman commented that it was wonderful to see the children involved in the act of remembrance.

121. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

County Councillor Arckless provided a written report which was circulated.

County Councillor Watson informed that the improvement to parking facilities at Alnmouth station was imminent with an additional 40-50 space planned.

A programme for the replacement of street lighting was underway.

Coquet Shorebase Trust had required funding towards the cost of storage containers and associated fencing; Councillors Arckless and Watson had agreed to help with this through their Members Small Schemes.

122. 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

122.1: NCC – Joint Town & Parish Council meeting with Area Committee – The Clerk would request a copy of the minutes of this meeting. Clerk

122.2: NALC County Committee – Cllr Weir informed that while he had missed the NALC AGM, he had attended this month's meeting.

122.3: Cllr Lewis detailed discussions from a meeting she had attended with the Clerk regarding Cemetery provision in Northumberland. Another meeting was to be held in December.

123. AGENDA ITEMS:

123.1: To consider the newspaper for the December edition of The Ambler – The Newspaper was agreed.

123.2: Remainder of rubble at demolition site – It was agreed that the remainder of the rubble was not fit for purpose. The Clerk would inform Mark Thomas of this and pursue the original quotation from the contractor which included the provision of rubble. Clerk

124. FINANCIAL REPORT:

124.1: The payments for the month were agreed.

124.2: Earmarked funds to date were noted.

125. AMENITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

125.1: The next meeting of the Amenities Committee would be held on Thursday 27th November 2014.

125.2: To consider the notes and recommendations of the Events Sub Committee meeting held 28th October 2014 – It was agreed as per recommendations to pay £150 towards the Caribbean band at the Christmas Lights event.

It was also agreed to support the bid of Amble Development Trust with a 10% reimbursement to a Banks Mining Application from the events budget for the Puffin Festival

125.3: Acklington Road School side bus shelter – Mr Coils had updated that as steel works was no longer on the syllabus, he would be completing the work himself.

The Clerk informed that the bus shelter at the residential side of Acklington Road was larger than anticipated and therefore the base would need to be adjusted. It was agreed to delegate the Clerk up to £200 to cover this. Clerk

126: PLANNING COMMITTEE

126.1: The Planning Report to date had been received.

127. COMMUNICATIONS:

127.1: Natural England - A possible new marine Special Protection Area for Northumberland – As the consultation was not planned to commence until December 2015, it was agreed to wait for the receipt of further information.

127.2: NCC – Consultation on street naming and numbering – Persimmons Development – The Members were in agreement with the Castles theme however did not feel that Mitford and Prudhoe were well associated with the area. The Members preferred Chillingham, Norham, Ford and Etal to accompany the suggested Alwick, Warkworth, Bamburgh and Dunstanburgh.

127.3: NCC - Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy update – The Clerk had circulated dates

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of drop in sessions throughout January 2015. There were also opportunities for NCC Officers to attend Council meetings. It was agreed to wait until the Core Strategy was released before deciding if Officer presence was required.

127.4: NCC – Peer Review – The Clerk did not attend this event.

127.5: NCC – Culinary Institute Invitation – There had been an excellent take up with 24 apprentices from Amble alone.

127.6: NCC – Removal of ask@ mailbox – The Clerk informed of the removal of the mailbox. Cllr Lewis raise concerns about the ability for the public to communicate with NCC; also not every enquiry fitted neatly into the suggested 'boxes'.

127.7: NCC – Parish Precepts & Council Tax Support Scheme – The Clerk informed that the precept was request by NCC by no later than 2nd February 2015.

127.8: NCC – Amble Paddlers Playarea – This would be discussed further at the meeting with NCC Offices of 2nd December.

127.9: AONB – Annual Forum 4th December, Bamburgh – It was agreed that Cllr Weir would attend on behalf of the Council. Expenses would be reimbursed.

127.10: Mrs Shepherd – Parking, Togston Square and Hallbank Well – The Clerk read out the letter. It was agreed to acknowledge the letter and forward to Amble Development Trust regarding the parking proposal on their land which Council would not support.

127.11: NCC – Northumberland Local Heroes – This was delegated to the Clerk and Chair.

Weir

Clerk

Clerk/Weir

128. INFORMATION ITEMS AND ITEMS FOR CIRCULATION:

The Council note the information items.

128.1: NALC e-news October 2014 (circulated by email)

128.2: AONB Coastal Views October 2014 (circulated by email)

128.3: Clerk's & Councils Direct November 2014

128.4: Archaeology in Northumberland

129. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:

129:1 The next Meeting will be on **Thursday 11th December 2014 at approx. 6.30pm.** in the Conference Room, 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

130: MINUTES – The minutes of the meeting held 9th October 2014 were agreed as a true record.

The notes of the Paddlers meeting held 23rd October were agreed as a true record/

It was RESOLVED to pay £750 for additional sketch drawings for the project design.

Clerk

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

LMAPS – Cllr Dargue informed of the review of this service. It was agreed that a letter would be sent on behalf of the Council stating our disappointment at this.

Dargue/
Weir/Clerk

A relaxation of the Standing Orders was agreed at 9pm

132: CLERKS REPORT

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

132.1: Update on staff absence – It was agreed to end the contract of employment. The Clerk would calculate the holiday pay due. Members agreed to introduce a policy of a gratuity gift to the value of £20 per year to a maximum of 20 years. If possible on this occasion the gift would be presented at the Mayor's Christmas Reception.

The Clerk would draw up a job description for a new Administration Assistant post and advertise. Interviews should take place before Christmas. The interview panel would be set up at the December meeting of the Council.

132.2: Update on land at High Street – The Clerk had received a quote for the design and creating of a puffin seat that was well above budget. It was agreed to proceed with an alternative quotation from another supplier for a cast iron Georgian seat with a puffin design at either end with black recycled plastic boards.

Clerk

Clerk

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The Clerk informed that Amble Business Club were unwilling to enter into a written agreement regarding the maintenance of the garden. It was agreed that the Council would be happy for the Club to help with routine weeding and tidying but the Council would retain the responsibility. The Clerk would send a letter to this effect.

Clerk

132.3: Update on 'Years to Remember' production investigations – It was agreed to ask the Local branch of the Royal British Legion to support the production as a joint venture up to the value of £100, the Clerk would investigate Hall hire at the Warkworth Memorial Hall. The Clerk would request the contract for the production.

Clerk

A display showing the Emergency Services & other organisations involvement in WW1 was agreed for 2016 and a Fireworks display for 2018. Both would be investigated.

Clerk

132.4: Update on land at Robson's Way – No update had been received.

132.5: Concern of West Cemetery Footpath – Options were still being investigated.

132.6: S106 Agreement – A response was still awaited from NCC.

132.7: Consideration of Office Premises – As there were Land Registry implications for leases that were in excess of a 7year period it was agreed to renegotiate for 7 years. The Clerk would ask the Solicitor for a set price for legal advice and to include a get out clause at 4 years. The purchase of additional furniture would be delegated to the Clerk with the Chair.

Weir/Clerk

133: Coquet Street car park – Lease condition – Cllr Lewis had sent a letter privately requesting information on the future of parking on this site. She read out the reply that she had received. It was agreed that the Council would now pursue this by requesting clarification on the enforcement of the covenant and how it can be enforced in the future.

Clerk

134. Coal Yard site improvements – There was concern regarding the restructuring of this site and fly tipping. It was agreed that a letter be sent asking for the area to be tidied up.

Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.49pm